E/2016/28
E/CN.7/2016/16

United Nations

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Report on the fifty-ninth session (11 December 2015 and 14-22 March 2016)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2016
Supplement No. 8

E/2016/28
E/CN.7/2016/16

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2016
Supplement No. 8

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Report on the fifty-ninth session
(11 December 2015 and
14-22 March 2016)**

United Nations • New York, 2016

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-ninth session, to be held on 1 and 2 December 2016, will be issued as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 8A* (E/2016/28/Add.1).

ISSN 0251-9941

[12 April 2016]

Contents

Chapter *Page*

Executive summary vi

I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention ... 1

A. Outcome document transmitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the General Assembly and recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 1

Resolution 59/1 Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 1

B. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly 24

Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development 24

C. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council 29

I. Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda for its sixtieth session 29

II. Report of the International Narcotics Control Board 30

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council 30

Resolution 59/2 Outcomes of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including the Abu Dhabi declaration 31

Resolution 59/3 Promoting informal networking within the scientific community and the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem 33

Resolution 59/4 Development and dissemination of international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders 35

Resolution 59/5 Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes 38

Resolution 59/6 Promoting prevention strategies and policies 42

Resolution 59/7 Promotion of proportionate sentencing for drug-related offences of an appropriate nature in implementing drug control policies 45

Resolution 59/8 Promotion of measures to target new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants 47

Decision 59/1 Inclusion of acetylfentanyl in Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol 52

Decision 59/2 Inclusion of MT-45 in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol 52

Decision 59/3 Inclusion of *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) in Schedule I of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 . 52

Decision 59/4 Inclusion of α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α-PVP) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 53

Decision 59/5 Inclusion of *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 53

Decision 59/6 Inclusion of methoxetamine (MXE) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 53

Decision 59/7 Inclusion of phenazepam in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 53

II. Special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 54

A. Opening of the special segment 54

B. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 54

C. Other business 58

D. Outcome and closure of the special segment 58

E. Action taken by the Commission 58

III. Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions 63

Deliberations 64

IV. Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 66

A. Deliberations 67

B. Action taken by the Commission 69

V. Implementation of the international drug control treaties 74

A. Deliberations 75

B. Action taken by the Commission 79

VI. World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission 82

A. Deliberations 82

B. Action taken by the Commission 83

VII. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1 84

Deliberations 84

VIII. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 87
A. Deliberations 87
B. Action taken by the Commission 87
IX. Other business 88
X. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session 89
XI. Organization of the session and administrative matters 90
A. Opening and duration of the session 90
B. Attendance 90
C. Election of officers 90
D. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters 92
E. Documentation 94
F. Closure of the session 94

Executive summary

The present summary has been prepared pursuant to the annex to General Assembly resolution 68/1, entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council", in which it is stated that the subsidiary bodies of the Council should, inter alia, include in their reports an executive summary.

The fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including its special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, was held from 14 to 22 March 2016. The present document contains the report on the fifty-ninth session and chapter I contains the text of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission or recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and/or the General Assembly.

During the special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, held from 14 to 16 March 2016, the Commission adopted resolution 59/1, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016", and recommended the outcome document entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" for adoption by the General Assembly at the plenary of the special session, to be held from 19 to 21 April 2016.

During the regular part of its session, held from 17 to 22 March 2016, the Commission considered issues related to the scheduling of substances in accordance with the international drug control conventions and other matters arising from those treaties, strategic management, budgetary and administrative matters, the world situation with regard to drug trafficking, recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and matters relating to the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission decided to include acetylfentanyl in Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The Commission also decided to include MT-45 in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended. Furthermore, the Commission decided to include *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) in Schedule I of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The Commission also decided to include α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α-PVP), *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR), and methoxetamine (MXE) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. The Commission further decided to include phenazepam in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the draft resolution entitled "Promoting the implementation of the United National Guiding Principles on Alternative Development" for adoption by the General Assembly. In addition, the Commission recommended the following draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council: "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda for its sixtieth session"; and "Report of the International Narcotics Control Board".

Furthermore, the Commission adopted the following seven resolutions, which cover a broad range of issues: "Outcomes of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including the Abu Dhabi declaration";

"Promoting informal networking within the scientific community and the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem"; "Development and dissemination of international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders"; "Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes"; "Promoting prevention strategies and policies"; "Promotion of proportionate sentencing for drug-related offences of an appropriate nature in implementing drug control policies"; and "Promotion of measures to target new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants".

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Outcome document transmitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the General Assembly and recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. The annex to the following resolution is brought to the attention of the General Assembly and recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held from 19 to 21 April 2016.

Resolution 59/1

Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/181 of 17 December 2015, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document to be recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session,

Decides to transmit the outcome document, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", which is annexed to the present resolution, to the General Assembly and to recommend its adoption at the plenary of the special session on the world drug problem to be held from 19 to 21 April 2016.

Annex

Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem

We, heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States, assembled at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 21 April 2016 for the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, convened in accordance with Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World

Drug Problem,[1] including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

We reaffirm our commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern with the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular among children and young people, and drug-related crime, and we reaffirm our determination to prevent and treat the abuse of such substances and prevent and counter their illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking;

We recognize that, while tangible progress has been achieved in some fields, the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, and we resolve to reinforce our national and international efforts and further increase international cooperation to face those challenges;

We reaffirm our determination to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity and reaffirm our determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse;

We note with concern that the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, remains low to non-existent in many countries of the world, and we highlight the need to enhance national efforts and international cooperation at all levels to address that situation by promoting measures to ensure their availability and accessibility for medical and scientific purposes, within the framework of national legal systems, while simultaneously preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the three international drug control conventions;

We recognize that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach;

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

---

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[2] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

We underscore that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[3] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[4] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[5] and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system;

We reaffirm our commitment to implementing effectively the provisions set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, mindful of the targets and goals set therein, as well as to addressing the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the high-level review in March 2014;[6]

We welcome the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[7] and we note that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing;

We recognize, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem, that appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, with a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of all humanity;

We recognize the importance of appropriately mainstreaming gender and age perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes;

We recognize that there are persistent, new and evolving challenges that should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, which allow for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law;

We reaffirm the need to mobilize adequate resources to address and counter the world drug problem and call for enhancing assistance to developing countries, upon request, in effectively implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the operational recommendations contained in the present document;

We recognize that transit States continue to face multifaceted challenges, and reaffirm the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance, to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the world drug problem, in conformity with the 1988 Convention;

We reaffirm the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and our support and appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations, in

---

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[6] Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C).

[7] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

particular those of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and further reaffirm the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization;

We recognize that successfully addressing and countering the world drug problem requires close cooperation and coordination among domestic authorities at all levels, particularly in the health, education, justice and law enforcement sectors, taking into account their respective areas of competence under national legislation;

We welcome continued efforts to enhance coherence within the United Nations system at all levels;

We recognize that civil society, as well as the scientific community and academia, plays an important role in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and note that affected populations and representatives of civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation, implementation, and the providing of relevant scientific evidence in support of, as appropriate, the evaluation of drug control policies and programmes, and we recognize the importance of cooperation with the private sector in this regard;

We express deep concern at the high price paid by society and by individuals and their families as a result of the world drug problem, and pay special tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives, in particular law enforcement and judicial personnel, and to the health-care and civil society personnel and volunteers who dedicate themselves to countering and addressing this phenomenon;

We reaffirm the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, in their efforts to support Member States in the implementation of international drug control treaties in accordance with applicable human rights obligations and to promote protection of and respect for human rights and the dignity of all individuals in the context of drug programmes, strategies and policies;

We reaffirm the need to address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice, public security and law enforcement fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and recognize the value of comprehensive and balanced policy interventions, including those in the field of promotion of sustainable and viable livelihoods;

We reaffirm that targeted interventions that are based on the collection and analysis of data, including age- and gender-related data, can be particularly effective in meeting the specific needs of drug-affected populations and communities;

We reiterate our commitment to end by 2030 the epidemics of AIDS and tuberculosis, as well as combat viral hepatitis, other communicable diseases, inter alia, among people who use drugs, including people who inject drugs.

Operational recommendations on demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues

1. We reiterate our commitment to promote the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, and facilitate healthy lifestyles through effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives at all levels, covering, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, and we recommend the following measures:

Prevention of drug abuse

(a) Take effective and practical primary prevention measures that protect people, in particular children and youth, from drug use initiation by providing them with accurate information about the risks of drug abuse, by promoting skills and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles and develop supportive parenting and healthy social environments and by ensuring equal access to education and vocational training;

(b) Also take effective and practical measures to prevent progression to severe drug use disorders through appropriately targeted early interventions for people at risk of such progression;

(c) Increase the availability, coverage and quality of scientific evidence-based prevention measures and tools that target relevant age and risk groups in multiple settings, reaching youth in school as well as out of school, among others, through drug abuse prevention programmes and public awareness-raising campaigns, including by using the Internet, social media and other online platforms, develop and implement prevention curricula and early intervention programmes for use in the education system at all levels, as well as in vocational training, including in the workplace, and enhance the capacity of teachers and other relevant professionals to provide or recommend counselling, prevention and care services;

(d) Promote the well-being of society as a whole through the elaboration of effective scientific evidence-based prevention strategies centred on and tailored to the needs of individuals, families and communities as part of comprehensive and balanced national drug policies, on a non-discriminatory basis;

(e) Involve, as appropriate, policymakers, parliamentarians, educators, civil society, the scientific community, academia, target populations, individuals in recovery from substance use disorders and their peer groups, families and other co-dependent people, as well as the private sector, in the development of prevention programmes aimed at raising public awareness of the dangers and risks associated with drug abuse, and involve, inter alia, parents, care services providers, teachers, peer groups, health professionals, religious communities, community leaders, social workers, sports associations, media professionals and entertainment industries, as appropriate, in their implementation;

(f) Consider enhancing cooperation between public health, education and law enforcement authorities when developing prevention initiatives;

(g) Develop and improve recreational facilities and provide access for children and youth to regular sports and cultural activities, with a view to promoting healthy lives and lifestyles, including through the recovery and improvement of public spaces, and promote the exchange of experiences and good practices in this field to further enhance effective preventive interventions;

(h) Promote and improve the systematic collection of information and gathering of evidence as well as the sharing, at the national and international levels, of reliable and comparable data on drug use and epidemiology, including on social, economic and other risk factors, and promote, as appropriate, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Assembly, the use of internationally recognized standards, such as the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, and the exchange of best practices, to formulate effective drug use prevention strategies and programmes in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities;

Treatment of drug use disorders, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration; prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne infectious diseases

(i) Recognize drug dependence as a complex, multifactorial health disorder characterized by a chronic and relapsing nature with social causes and consequences that can be prevented and treated through, inter alia, effective scientific evidence-based drug treatment, care and rehabilitation programmes, including community-based programmes, and strengthen capacity for aftercare for and the rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration of individuals with substance use disorders, including, as appropriate, through assistance for effective reintegration into the labour market and other support services;

(j) Encourage the voluntary participation of individuals with drug use disorders in treatment programmes, with informed consent, where consistent with national legislation, and develop and implement outreach programmes and campaigns, involving drug users in long-term recovery, where appropriate, to prevent social marginalization and promote non-stigmatizing attitudes, as well as to encourage drug users to seek treatment and care, and take measures to facilitate access to treatment and expand capacity;

(k) Promote and strengthen regional and international cooperation in developing and implementing treatment-related initiatives, enhance technical assistance and capacity-building and ensure non-discriminatory access to a broad range of interventions, including psychosocial, behavioural and medication-assisted treatment, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, as well as to rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery-support programmes, including access to such services in prisons and after imprisonment, giving special attention to the specific needs of women, children and youth in this regard;

(l) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, the capacity of health, social and law enforcement and other criminal justice authorities to cooperate, within their mandates, in the implementation of comprehensive, integrated and balanced responses to drug abuse and drug use disorders, at all levels of government;

(m) Promote the inclusion in national drug policies, in accordance with national legislation and as appropriate, of elements for the prevention and treatment of drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose, including the use of opioid receptor antagonists such as naloxone to reduce drug-related mortality;

(n) Promote cooperation with and technical assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs in developing and implementing comprehensive and integrated policies to address, where appropriate, the impact of illicit drug trafficking on increasing drug use in such States, including by reinforcing national programmes aimed at prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration;

(o) Invite relevant national authorities to consider, in accordance with their national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, including in national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures and programmes, in the context of comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction efforts, effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including appropriate medication-assisted therapy programmes, injecting equipment programmes, as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, as well as consider ensuring access to such interventions including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings, and promoting in that regard the use, as appropriate, of the *WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*;[8]

(p) Promote and implement the standards on the treatment of drug use disorders developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization and other relevant international standards, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and the international drug control conventions, and provide guidance, assistance and training to health professionals on their appropriate use, and consider developing standards and accreditation for services at the domestic level to ensure qualified and scientific evidence-based responses;

(q) Intensify, as appropriate, the meaningful participation of and support and training for civil society organizations and entities involved in drug-related health and social treatment services, in accordance with national legislation and in the framework of integrated and coordinated national drug policies, and encourage efforts by civil society and the private sector to develop support networks for prevention and treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration in a balanced and inclusive manner;

(r) Encourage the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to strengthen cooperation with the World Health Organization and other competent United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to strengthening health and social welfare measures in addressing the world drug problem, including through effective prevention, early intervention, treatment, care,

[8] World Health Organization (Geneva, 2009).

recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, in cooperation, as appropriate, with civil society and the scientific community, and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs appropriately updated.

Operational recommendations on ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

2. We reiterate our strong commitment to improving access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by appropriately addressing existing barriers in this regard, including those related to legislation, regulatory systems, health-care systems, affordability, the training of health-care professionals, education, awareness-raising, estimates, assessment and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under control, and international cooperation and coordination, while concurrently preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, and we recommend the following measures:

(a) Consider reviewing, within the framework of national legal systems, domestic legislation and regulatory and administrative mechanisms, as well as procedures including domestic distribution channels, with the aim of simplifying and streamlining those processes and removing unduly restrictive regulations and impediments, where they exist, to ensure access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, as required by the three international drug control conventions and defined by national legislation, while preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, and encourage the exchange of information, lessons learned and best practices in designing and implementing regulatory, financial, educational, administrative and other related measures;

(b) Strengthen, as appropriate, the proper functioning of national control systems and domestic assessment mechanisms and programmes, in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations system agencies, to identify, analyse and remove impediments to the availability and accessibility of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, within appropriate control mechanisms, as required by the three international drug control conventions and taking into account *Ensuring Balance in National Policies on Controlled Substances: Guidance for Availability and Accessibility of Controlled Medicines*[9] and, for that purpose, consider the provision of technical and financial assistance, upon request, to developing countries;

(c) Expedite, in accordance with national legislation, the process of issuing import and export authorizations for controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by using the above-mentioned guidance and the International Import and Export Authorization System of the International Narcotics Control Board;

(d) Address, at the national and international levels, issues related to the affordability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while ensuring their quality, safety and efficacy, including limited financial resources and problems in sourcing with regard to these substances, including in cooperation, as

[9] World Health Organization (Geneva, 2011).

appropriate, with the private sector through, inter alia and where needed, expanding the national coverage of distribution networks to rural areas, addressing the link with government regulations, licences and taxation and allowing appropriately trained and qualified professionals to prescribe, dispense and administer controlled medicines based on their general professional licence, as well as, where appropriate, the manufacture of generic pharmaceutical preparations that are bioequivalent and cost-effective;

(e) Take measures, in accordance with national legislation, to provide capacity-building and training, including with the support of relevant United Nations entities such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, targeted at competent national authorities and health-care professionals, including pharmacists, on adequate access to and use of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including the relief of pain and suffering, consider the development and wider implementation of relevant clinical guidelines on the rational use of controlled medicines, and conduct appropriate awareness-raising campaigns under the coordination of relevant national health authorities and in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders;

(f) Develop national supply management systems for controlled substances that comprise selection, quantification, procurement, storage, distribution and use, strengthen the capacity of competent national authorities to adequately estimate and assess the need for controlled substances and paying special attention to essential medicines, as defined by national legislation, taking due note of the *Guide on Estimating Requirements for Substances under International Control*,[10] and enhance domestic data-collection mechanisms in order to present the International Narcotics Control Board with estimates on the consumption of drugs used for medical and scientific purposes;

(g) Continue to regularly update the Model Lists of Essential Medicines of the World Health Organization, enhance collaboration among Member States and the treaty bodies with scheduling responsibilities, leading to informed and coordinated scheduling decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that take due account of all relevant aspects to ensure that the objectives of the conventions are met, and review national lists of controlled substances and national lists of essential medicines, as appropriate.

Operational recommendations on supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

3. We reiterate our commitment to protecting the safety and assuring the security of individuals, societies and communities by intensifying our efforts to prevent and counter the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as drug-related crime and violence, through, inter alia, more effective drug-related crime prevention and law enforcement measures, as well as by addressing links with other forms of organized

[10] International Narcotics Control Board and World Health Organization (Vienna, 2012).

crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities, mindful of their social and economic causes and consequences, and we recommend the following measures:

Prevention of drug-related crime

(a) Strengthen multidisciplinary measures at the international, regional, national, and local and community levels to prevent drug-related crime, violence, victimization and corruption and foster social development and inclusiveness, integrate such measures into overall law enforcement efforts and comprehensive policies and programmes, and promote a culture of lawfulness, as described in the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation;

(b) Promote comprehensive supply reduction efforts that include preventive measures addressing, inter alia, the criminal justice and socioeconomic-related factors that may facilitate, drive, enable and perpetuate organized crime and drug-related crime;

(c) Promote data collection, research and the sharing of information, as well as the exchange of best practices on preventing and countering drug-related crime and on drug supply reduction measures and practices, in order to enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses, within the framework of applicable law;

Countering illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

(d) Increase cooperation at all levels and enhance measures to prevent and significantly and measurably reduce or eliminate the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including through eradication, within the framework of sustainable crop control strategies and measures;

(e) Monitor current trends and drug trafficking routes and share experiences, best practices and lessons learned, in order to prevent and counter the misuse of international trade for illicit drug-related activities, and note the success achieved through United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime operational initiatives, including initiatives aimed at countering the exploitation of freight containers for drug trafficking and at preventing and countering the diversion of precursors for illicit use and illicit financial flows stemming from drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as other technical assistance activities;

(f) Promote and strengthen the exchange of information and, as appropriate, drug-related criminal intelligence among law enforcement and border control agencies, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime multilateral portals and regional information centres and networks, and promote joint investigations and coordinate operations, in conformity with national legislation, and training programmes at all levels, in order to identify, disrupt and dismantle organized criminal groups operating transnationally that are involved in any activities related to the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the diversion of their precursors and related money-laundering;

(g) Strengthen coordinated border management strategies, as well as the capacity of border control and law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, including through technical assistance, upon request, including and where appropriate, the provision of equipment and technology, along with necessary training and maintenance support, in order to prevent, monitor and counter trafficking in drugs, trafficking in precursors and other drug-related crimes such as trafficking in firearms, illicit financial flows, smuggling of bulk cash and money-laundering;

(h) Enhance the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in forensic science in the context of drug investigations, including the quality and capacity of drug analysis laboratories to gather, preserve and present forensic evidence to effectively prosecute drug-related offences through considering, inter alia, the provision of advanced detection equipment, scanners, testing kits, reference samples, forensic laboratories and training, as requested;

(i) Strengthen regional, subregional and international cooperation in criminal matters, as appropriate, including judicial cooperation in the areas of, inter alia, extradition, mutual legal assistance and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with the international drug control conventions and other international legal instruments and national legislation, and strive to provide appropriate resources to national competent authorities, including through the provision of targeted technical assistance to requesting countries;

(j) Maximize the effectiveness of law enforcement measures against organized criminal groups and individuals involved in drug-related crimes, including by placing appropriate focus within our respective jurisdictions on those responsible for illicit activities of a larger scale or more serious nature;

Addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities

(k) Respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, by using an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, such as through promoting and supporting reliable data collection, research and, as appropriate, intelligence- and analysis-sharing to ensure effective policymaking and interventions;

(l) Encourage the use of existing subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms to combat all forms of drug-related crime, wherever committed, including, in some cases, violent crimes related to gangs, including by enhancing international cooperation to successfully counter and dismantle organized criminal groups, including those operating transnationally;

(m) Strengthen national, regional and international measures and, as appropriate, rules and regulations aimed at enhancing operational cooperation to prevent transnational organized criminal networks involved in illicit drug-related activities from trafficking and acquiring firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, explosives and other related material;

(n) Consider ratifying or acceding to relevant international legal instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[11] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[12] and the international conventions and protocols related to countering terrorism, and call upon States parties to take measures to more effectively implement those international legal instruments;

(o) Continue to foster international cooperation by implementing the provisions against money-laundering contained in all relevant international and multilateral instruments, such as the 1988 Convention, the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption and, in accordance with national legislation, the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations on Money Laundering;[13]

(p) Strengthen and utilize existing and relevant regional, as appropriate, subregional and international networks for the exchange of operational information to prevent and counter money-laundering, illicit financial flows and terrorist financing;

(q) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms of domestic coordination and timely and efficient information-sharing between authorities involved in identifying and countering drug trafficking, diversion of precursors and related money-laundering, integrate financial investigations more thoroughly into interdiction operations to identify individuals and companies involved in such activities, and encourage, in accordance with national legislation, cooperation with the private sector, including financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, as well as providers of money or value transfer services, to identify suspicious transactions, with a view to further investigating and disrupting the drug trafficking business model;

(r) Enhance national, regional, subregional, interregional and international capacity to prevent and counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from drug trafficking and related crimes, including, as appropriate, through detection, investigation and prosecution of such activities, with a view to effectively addressing safe havens, and identify and mitigate money-laundering risks linked to new technologies, as well as emerging money-laundering methods and techniques, by using, inter alia, existing United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime technical assistance tools;

(s) Develop and strengthen bilateral, subregional and international mechanisms to share information among competent authorities and promote their cooperation to effectively and in a timely manner identify, trace, freeze, seize and confiscate assets and proceeds of drug-related crime and their disposal, including sharing, in accordance with the 1988 Convention, as well as their return, in appropriate drug-related corruption cases, in the framework of the Convention against Corruption, or, as appropriate, in cases of drug-related crimes involving transnational organized groups, consistent with the Organized Crime Convention;

---

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[12] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[13] Financial Action Task Force, *International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation* (Paris, 2015).

and encourage the timely sharing of operational information among relevant law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies and financial intelligence units;

(t) Promote effective measures capable of addressing the links between drug-related crimes and corruption, as well as obstruction of justice, including through the intimidation of justice officials, as a part of national anti-corruption and drug control strategies;

(u) Improve the availability and quality of statistical information and analysis of illicit drug cultivation, production and manufacturing, drug trafficking, money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including for appropriate reflection in reports of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, in order to better measure and evaluate the impact of such crimes and to further enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses in that regard.

Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

4. We reiterate our commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies, and we recommend the following measures:

Drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society, and communities

(a) Enhance the knowledge of policymakers and the capacity, as appropriate, of relevant national authorities on various aspects of the world drug problem in order to ensure that national drug policies, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach, fully respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and protect the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, vulnerable members of society, communities and society as a whole, and to that end encourage cooperation with and among the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, including those relevant to the above-mentioned issues, and relevant regional and international organizations, as well as with civil society and the private sector, as appropriate;

(b) Ensure non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes, including those offered to persons in prison or pretrial detention, which are to be on a level equal to those available in the community, and ensure that women, including detained women, have access to adequate health services and counselling, including those particularly needed during pregnancy;

(c) Promote effective supervision of drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities by competent domestic authorities to ensure adequate quality of drug treatment and rehabilitation services and to prevent any possible acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in accordance with domestic legislation and applicable international law;

(d) Continue to identify and address protective and risk factors, as well as the conditions that continue to make women and girls vulnerable to exploitation and participation in drug trafficking, including as couriers, with a view to preventing their involvement in drug-related crime;

(e) Promote, in accordance with domestic legislation, effective coordination among the justice, education and law enforcement sectors and social services to ensure that the specific needs, including mental and physical needs, of underage drug offenders and children affected by drug-related crime are appropriately considered, including in criminal justice proceedings where required, including by providing those in need with drug treatment and related support services;

(f) Implement age-appropriate practical measures, tailored to the specific needs of children, youth and other vulnerable members of society, in the legislative, administrative, social, economic, cultural and educational sectors, including measures to provide them with opportunities for healthy and self-sustained lives, in order to prevent their abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and address their involvement, use and exploitation in the illicit cultivation of crops, production, manufacturing and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and other forms of drug-related crime, including urban crime, youth and gang-related violence and crime, fulfilling the obligations as States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and taking into account the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines);[14]

(g) Mainstream a gender perspective into and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes, develop and disseminate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the world drug problem and, as States parties, implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[15]

(h) Consider, on a voluntary basis, when furnishing information to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs pursuant to the three international drug control conventions and relevant Commission resolutions, the inclusion of information concerning, inter alia, the promotion of human rights and the health, safety and welfare of all individuals, communities and society in the context of their domestic implementation of these conventions, including recent developments, best practices and challenges;

(i) Ensure that measures to prevent the illicit cultivation of and to eradicate plants containing narcotic and psychotropic substances respect fundamental human rights, take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historic evidence of such use, and of the protection of the environment, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, and also take into account, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;[16]

---

[14] General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex.

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[16] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

Proportionate and effective policies and responses, as well as legal guarantees and safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings and the justice sector

(j) Encourage the development, adoption and implementation, with due regard to national, constitutional, legal and administrative systems, of alternative or additional measures with regard to conviction or punishment in cases of an appropriate nature, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions and taking into account, as appropriate, relevant United Nations standards and rules, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules);

(k) Consider sharing, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, information, lessons learned, experiences and best practices on the design, implementation and results of national criminal justice policies, including, as appropriate, domestic practices on proportional sentencing, related to the implementation of the three international drug control conventions, including article 3 of the 1988 Convention;

(l) Promote proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences whereby the severity of penalties is proportionate to the gravity of offences and whereby both mitigating and aggravating factors are taken into account, including the circumstances enumerated in article 3 of the 1988 Convention and other relevant and applicable international law, and in accordance with national legislation;

(m) Enhance access to treatment of drug use disorders for those incarcerated and promote effective oversight and encourage, as appropriate, self-assessments of confinement facilities, taking into consideration the United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),[17] implement, where appropriate, measures aimed at addressing and eliminating prison overcrowding and violence, and provide capacity-building to relevant national authorities;

(n) Encourage the taking into account of the specific needs and possible multiple vulnerabilities of women drug offenders when imprisoned, in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);[18]

(o) Promote and implement effective criminal justice responses to drug-related crimes to bring perpetrators to justice that ensure legal guarantees and due process safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings, including practical measures to uphold the prohibition of arbitrary arrest and detention and of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to eliminate impunity, in accordance with relevant and applicable international law and taking into account United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, and ensure timely access to legal aid and the right to a fair trial.

[17] General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex.
[18] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments

5. We reiterate our commitment to strengthen our efforts in addressing and countering emerging and persistent challenges and threats of all aspects of the world drug problem, and note the need to effectively respond to the evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances through comprehensive, integrated and balanced drug control policies and programmes that take into account their transnational implications and that are in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and to strengthen our international, regional and subregional cooperation, and we recommend the following:

Addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

We resolve to strengthen national and international action to address the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances, including their adverse health consequences, and the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and underscore the importance of enhancing information-sharing and early warning networks, developing appropriate national legislative, prevention and treatment models and supporting scientific evidence-based review and scheduling of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful substances, we note the importance of preventing the diversion and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and precursors while ensuring their availability for legitimate purposes, and we recommend the following measures:

(a) Encourage the development and implementation of, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, comprehensive measures and programmes, as outlined in paragraph 1 of this document, adapt those measures to the risks and challenges posed by the use of new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and actively share information on best practices and lessons learned with regard to national health-related experiences;

(b) Enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to detect and identify new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and promote cross-border cooperation and information-sharing to prevent their abuse and diversion, including through the use of existing International Narcotics Control Board and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime tools and projects;

(c) Establish and strengthen partnerships and information exchange with industries, in particular with chemical and pharmaceutical industries and other

relevant private sector entities, and encourage the use of the *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*, issued by the International Narcotics Control Board, and the Board's model memorandum of understanding between governments and private sector partners, as and where appropriate, bearing in mind the important role these industries can play in addressing and countering the world drug problem;

New psychoactive substances

(d) Continue to identify and monitor trends in the composition, production, prevalence and distribution of new psychoactive substances, as well as patterns of use and adverse consequences, and assess the risks to health and safety of individuals and society as a whole and the potential uses of new psychoactive substances for medical and scientific purposes, and on that basis to develop and strengthen domestic and national legislative, regulatory, administrative and operational responses and practices by domestic and national legislative, law enforcement, judiciary, social and welfare, educational and health authorities;

(e) Commit to implementing timely, scientific evidence-based control or regulatory measures within national legislative and administrative systems to tackle and manage the challenge of new psychoactive substances, and consider the use of interim steps while substances are under review, such as provisional measures of control, or make public health announcements, as well as share information and expertise on those measures;

(f) Share relevant information with, as appropriate, and strengthen the capacity of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant international and regional organizations to prioritize the review of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances and to facilitate informed scheduling decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(g) Actively participate in early warning networks and promote the use of relevant surveillance lists and voluntary controls and the sharing of information through the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, and enhance bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances and incidents involving such substances and, to that end, strengthen the use of national, regional and international established reporting and information exchange systems, such as, where appropriate, the early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Project Ion of the International Narcotics Control Board;

(h) Enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories and promote national and regional cooperation among them, as appropriate, for the detection and identification of new psychoactive substances, including through the use of existing United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reference standards and assistance activities;

(i) Strengthen domestic information-sharing and promote information exchange at the regional and international levels on effective prevention and

treatment and related legislative measures in order to support the development of effective, scientific evidence-based responses to the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances with regard to their adverse social and health consequences;

Amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine

(j) Support existing research, collection and scientific analysis of data related to amphetamine-type stimulants through the global SMART programme and relevant International Narcotics Control Board tools, such as Project Prism, and strengthen cooperation at all levels in tackling amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

(k) Promote the use, as appropriate, of relevant existing programmes, mechanisms and coordinated operations at all levels and continue the development and sharing of best practices and lessons learned among practitioners with regard to a balanced and integrated approach to the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants;

Precursors and pre-precursors

(l) Strengthen national, regional and international monitoring of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances, with a view to more effectively preventing the diversion of and trafficking in those chemicals, while ensuring that the legitimate trade in and use of those chemicals are not adversely affected, including by using national, subregional and international reporting systems and International Narcotics Control Board tools such as Project Prism, the Precursors Incident Communication System and Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online);

(m) Take appropriate measures to address the diversion and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in as well as misuse of precursors under international control and to tackle the misuse of pre-precursors and substitute or alternative precursors for illicit drug manufacturing, and enhance voluntary efforts, including voluntary codes of conduct in cooperation with relevant industries and commerce at the national, regional and international levels, including through use of relevant International Narcotics Control Board tools;

Non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals

(n) Enhance the sharing of information on the misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the quality and consistency of reported data, including through the annual report questionnaire of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(o) Develop and implement countermeasures and supportive public health, education and socioeconomic strategies to effectively address and counter the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals that contain narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, while ensuring their availability for legitimate purposes, and promote national subregional, regional and international cooperation to prevent their diversion, trafficking and abuse, including through the use of existing World Health Organization, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and International Narcotics Control Board projects and tools;

Use of the Internet in relation to drug-related activities

(p) Support research, data collection, analysis of evidence and sharing of information and strengthen law enforcement, criminal justice and legal responses, as well as international cooperation, to prevent and counter drug-related criminal activities using the Internet, consistent with relevant and applicable law;

(q) Increase the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building at all levels to Member States, upon request, to prevent and counter the use of technologies, including the Internet, by drug trafficking networks and transnational criminal organizations, to facilitate drug-related activities;

(r) Enhance the capacity of national authorities, in particular law enforcement authorities, to preserve and analyse electronic evidence related to illicit activities, including drug trafficking and money-laundering, and to monitor sales of illicit drugs using the Internet;

(s) Encourage the use of the *Guidelines for Governments on Preventing the Illegal Sale of Internationally Controlled Substances through the Internet*,[19] as appropriate;

(t) Support measures on the use of the Internet for prevention purposes, including appropriate counselling and information provision, develop, implement and promote, in accordance with national legislation, prevention strategies, programmes and measures, including via social media and other social networks, aimed at, inter alia, protecting children and young people from the abuse of controlled substances and new psychoactive substances and from involvement in their illicit sale and purchase via the Internet, and enhance cooperation at all levels in that regard;

Evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats

(u) Promote, as appropriate, the use and analysis of relevant, reliable and objective data generated by national and regional monitoring and evaluation to improve the implementation of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug control strategies, policies and programmes, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and encourage the sharing of best practices and lessons learned, including through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other relevant regional and international organizations, within their mandates, to, inter alia, better understand both their domestic and transnational implications;

(v) Intensify efforts in the context of long-term and sustainable development programmes to address the most pressing drug-related socioeconomic factors, including unemployment and social marginalization, conducive to their subsequent exploitation by criminal organizations involved in drug-related crime;

(w) Encourage the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in cooperation with relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to consider, as appropriate, reviewing existing guidelines and, where required, developing new ones on the various aspects of the world drug problem, with a view to enhancing the

[19] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.6.

capacity of relevant national authorities and strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation;

(x) Promote exchange of information to better understand the extent of adverse impacts, including the health, social and economic and safety impacts, of drug trafficking in small quantities in order to develop, where appropriate, effective responses to counter microtrafficking;

(y) Call upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities with pertinent technical and operational expertise, within their mandates, to continue to provide, upon request, advice and assistance to States that are reviewing and updating their drug policies, in compliance with the international drug control conventions, taking into account their national priorities and needs through, among others, the promotion of exchange of information and best practices on scientific evidence-based policies adopted by States.

Operational recommendations on strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

6. We reiterate our commitment to supporting our efforts at all levels, based on common and shared responsibility, to effectively address and counter the world drug problem and to enhance international cooperation and, to that end, we recommend the following measures:

(a) Strengthen specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance, including, where appropriate, adequate financial assistance, training, capacity-building, equipment and technological know-how, to requesting countries, including transit countries, through and in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to assist Member States to effectively address the health, socioeconomic, human rights, justice and law enforcement aspects of the world drug problem;

(b) Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation among Member States, in cooperation with the international development community and other key stakeholders, in order to effectively address and counter the world drug problem;

(c) Strengthen, including through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and, as appropriate, its subsidiary bodies, the regular exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned among national practitioners from different fields and at all levels to effectively implement an integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem and its various aspects and consider additional measures to further facilitate meaningful discussion among those practitioners;

(d) Encourage the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to contribute to the global follow-up and support the thematic review of progress on the Sustainable

Development Goals,[20] within its mandates, bearing in mind the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, and make that information available to the high-level political forum through the appropriate institutional framework, taking into account General Assembly resolution 70/1;

(e) Encourage the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes.

Operational recommendations on alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

7. We reiterate our commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production and trafficking of drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies, and we recommend the following measures:

Socioeconomic issues and alternative development

(a) Target the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of drugs and address related factors by implementing comprehensive strategies aimed at alleviating poverty and strengthening the rule of law, accountable, effective and inclusive institutions and public services and institutional frameworks, as appropriate, and by promoting sustainable development aimed at enhancing the welfare of the affected and vulnerable population through licit alternatives;

(b) Encourage the promotion of inclusive economic growth and support initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development, develop measures for rural development, improving infrastructure and social inclusion and protection, addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the environment, with the incorporation and participation of local communities, and consider taking voluntary measures to promote products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to gain access to markets, consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and with national and international law, within the framework of comprehensive and balanced drug control strategies;

(c) Express concern that illicit cultivation of crops and illicit manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain serious challenges in addressing and countering

[20] Contained in General Assembly resolution 70/1.

the world drug problem, and recognize the need for strengthening sustainable crop control strategies that may include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of crops, and the need for intensifying joint efforts at national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges;

(d) Consider elaborating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, that support sustainable crop control strategies to prevent and significantly, durably and measurably reduce illicit crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities, ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities, including farmers and their cooperatives, by taking into account the vulnerabilities and specific needs of communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant international organizations, bearing in mind national and regional development policies and action plans, with a view to contributing to the building of peaceful, inclusive and just societies, consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals and in compliance with relevant and applicable international and national law;

(e) Strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, as an essential part of successful prevention and crop control strategies to increase the positive outcome of such programmes, especially in the areas affected by and at risk of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;[21]

(f) Strengthen regional and international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders at the local, national and international levels, and to develop and share best practices towards implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, taking into account all the lessons learned and good practices, in particular by countries with extensive expertise in alternative development, and take note, inter alia, of the Second International Conference on Alternative Development;

(g) Promote research by States, including through cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, academic institutions and civil society, to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation, taking into account local and regional specificities, and to improve impact assessment of alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of these programmes,

[21] General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

including through the use of relevant human development indicators, criteria related to environmental sustainability and other measurements in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

Technical and financial cooperation for comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug policies and viable economic alternatives

(h) Consider strengthening a development perspective as part of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug policies and programmes so as to tackle the related causes and consequences of illicit cultivation, manufacture, production of and trafficking in drugs by, inter alia, addressing risk factors affecting individuals, communities and society, which may include a lack of services, infrastructure needs, drug-related violence, exclusion, marginalization and social disintegration, in order to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies;

(i) Urge relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to consider increasing their support, including through long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourage States to the extent possible to stay strongly committed to financing such programmes;

(j) Encourage the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities;

(k) Consider the development of sustainable urban development initiatives for those affected by illicit drug-related activities to foster public participation in crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and safety and to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship and employment;

(l) Promote partnerships and innovative cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society and international financial institutions to create conditions more conducive to productive investments targeted at job creation in areas and among communities affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking and other illicit drug-related activities in order to prevent, reduce or eliminate them, and share best practices, lessons learned, expertise and skills in this regard.

8. We express appreciation for the inclusive, transparent and open-ended preparatory process for the special session, led by the Commission on Narcotic

Drugs with the support, guidance and involvement of the President of the General Assembly, and for all contributions to this preparatory process.

9. We resolve to take the necessary steps to implement the above-listed operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations.

B. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly

2. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly:

Draft resolution

Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[22] and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[23]

Reaffirming also the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[24] adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, as well as the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,[25] adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013, in which it adopted the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and encouraged Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take into account those Guiding Principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes,

---

[22] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[23] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

[24] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[25] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/6 of 20 March 2009, 53/6 of 12 March 2010, 54/4 of 25 March 2011, 55/4 of 16 March 2012, 57/1 of 21 March 2014 and 58/4 of 17 March 2015,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[26] and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained therein,

Taking note of the outcome of the international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development,[27] which includes conclusions and recommendations drawn from the field visits, the seminar/workshop and the high-level International Conference, and noting in particular the alternative development projects, as seen in the field visits, focused on enhancing individual and community resilience and recognized as an example of the sufficiency economy philosophy of the King of Thailand,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that it is an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, and that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production,

Expressing concern that illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain major challenges in countering the world drug problem, and recognizing the need to strengthen sustainable crop control strategies that include alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of crops, and the need to intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges,

Noting with concern that overall financial support for alternative development projects and programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, has only accounted for a minor share of official development assistance and has only reached a minor percentage of communities and households involved in illicit drug crop cultivation at the global level,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the outcome of the international seminar/workshop and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Bangkok, Thailand, and Shan State, Myanmar, from 19 to 24 November 2015 and hosted by the Government of Thailand, in collaboration with the Government of Germany, the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as an input to continued discussions on and enhanced implementation of the United Nations

[26] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[27] E/CN.7/2016/13, annex.

Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,[28] in accordance with national legislation;

2. *Reaffirms*, as highlighted in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, that alternative development, as an integral component of policies and programmes for reducing drug production, is an important, viable and sustainable option for preventing, eliminating or significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through tackling poverty and providing livelihood opportunities;

3. *Urges* Member States affected by or at risk of illicit crop cultivation to consider integrating comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, into national development policies and strategies, as appropriate, in order to address illicit crop cultivation and its related socioeconomic factors, provide sustainable alternative livelihoods and significantly contribute to the building of inclusive and just societies in order to reduce inequality within and among countries;

4. *Urges* Member States, when formulating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development strategies and policies, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development strategies and policies, to take into account the specific needs of the communities and groups affected by the illicit cultivation of crops used for drug production and manufacture, within the broader framework of national policies;

5. *Stresses* that, when designing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, the focus should be on empowering and encouraging ownership by local communities, including women, children and young people, taking into account their specific needs, and on strengthening local capacities, as ensuring the effective cooperation of all stakeholders in the entire alternative development process is crucial for the success of alternative development;

6. *Also stresses* that comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, as one of the tools available for tackling the world drug problem, increases the State's presence, builds trust between communities and government, strengthens local governance and institutions, promotes peaceful and inclusive societies and, under Sustainable Development Goal 16, includes the promotion of the rule of law;

7. *Encourages* further discussions on the relationship and potential links between alternative development and the promotion of the rule of law by individuals and communities, as well as on the wide range of challenges affecting the livelihoods and well-being of people, in order to further develop measures to address the root causes of such challenges;

8 *Encourages* Member States to ensure the proper and coordinated sequencing of development interventions when designing alternative development programmes;

---

[28] General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

9. *Stresses* that access to productive land and land rights, such as legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, should be promoted and protected in the implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, in a manner that is consistent with domestic law and regulations as well as with the full participation of and in consultation with local communities;

10. *Emphasizes* that the marketability of products stemming from alternative development programmes should be assessed before implementing such programmes and, where applicable, alternative development products should be aimed at creating value-added chains to enable target communities to obtain higher incomes in order to support sustainable livelihoods and substitute the income generated from illicit crop cultivation;

11. *Encourages* the international community, including civil society, the scientific community and academia, to work with affected communities to develop recommendations focusing on specific alternative development strategies that take into account demographic, cultural, social and geographical conditions and include ideas on supporting and promoting new products;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects, including preventive alternative development programmes and projects, as appropriate, and calls upon Member States with experience in this area to share outcomes, assessments of implemented projects and lessons learned, thereby contributing to the dissemination and application of the Guiding Principles;

13. Urges Member States to sustain political will and a long-term commitment with regard to implementing alternative development programmes and strategies, and to continue engaging in awareness programmes and in dialogue and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders;

14. *Urges* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to increase their rural development support for regions and populations affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of drug crops through long-term and flexible funding, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to remain strongly committed to financing alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate;

15. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen intragovernmental coordination when designing and implementing alternative development projects and programmes;

16. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies to further increase their interaction with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to support Member States in effectively implementing alternative development programmes, including preventative alternative development programmes, as appropriate, with a view to further enhancing coherence and coordination within the United Nations system;

17. *Encourages* development agencies, donors and financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia to share information, experiences and best

practices, promote research and increase efforts on the promotion of alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate;

18. *Recognizes* that more research is needed to better understand and identify factors contributing to the emergence of illicit crop cultivation and to improve impact assessments of alternative development programmes;

19. *Affirms* that, in addition to estimates of illicit cultivation and other illicit activities related to the world drug problem, indicators related to human development, socioeconomic conditions, rural development and the alleviation of poverty, as well as institutional and environmental indicators, should be used when assessing alternative development programmes in order to ensure that the outcomes are in line with national and international development objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and that they reflect accountable use of donor funds and truly benefit affected communities;

20. *Calls upon* Member States and other donors to consider providing long-term support to alternative development programmes and projects, including preventive alternative development programmes and projects, as appropriate, that target the illicit cultivation of crops, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication, including through enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governments and institutions, improve infrastructure, including the provision of public services such as water, energy, health and education in areas acutely impacted by the illicit cultivation of crops, promote the participation of local communities, enhance the empowerment of people and strengthen communities' resilience;

21. *Encourages* Member States to maintain and strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, as an essential part of successful crop control strategies, in order to increase the positive outcomes of such programmes, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

22. *Encourages* Member States with extensive expertise in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to continue sharing best practices, upon request, promoting research to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation and fostering and strengthening international cooperation, including cross-continental, interregional, subregional and regional technical cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, which includes in some cases preventive alternative development;

23. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

C. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

3. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda for its sixtieth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-ninth session;

(b) Also takes note of Commission decision 55/1 of 7 December 2012;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda for the sixtieth session set out below.

Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Operational segment

3. Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions:

   (a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;

   (b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

      (i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

      (ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions;

   (c) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.

Normative segment

4. Round-table discussions/thematic debate.

5. Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem:

   (a) Demand reduction and related measures;

   (b) Supply reduction and related measures;

(c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation.

6. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.

7. Preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019.

8. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

(a) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;

(b) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

(c) International Narcotics Control Board;

(d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

(e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.

9. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

10. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up, review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

* * *

11. Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Commission.

12. Other business.

13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session.

Draft decision II

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2015.[29]

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

4. The following resolutions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

[29] E/INCB/2015/1.

Resolution 59/2

Outcomes of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including the Abu Dhabi declaration

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[30] adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, in which Member States recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

Welcoming the decision made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014 that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should lead the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner,

Resolving to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10 of 15 March 2013, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard,

Noting the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that were held in 2015, namely the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Brussels from 22 to 25 June, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Algiers from 14 to 18 September, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 5 to 9 October, the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 19 to 22 October, and the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November,

[30] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

1. *Takes note* of the outcomes adopted by those meetings of the subsidiary bodies;[31]

2. *Also takes note* of the Abu Dhabi declaration of the States members participating in the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November, which is annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Abu Dhabi declaration

We, the representatives of States members of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East gathered at the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November 2015,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[32] in which it was recognized that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation and demanded an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Gravely concerned about the growing threat posed by the drug problem to the region,

Recalling that the three international drug conventions are the cornerstone of international drug control policy,

Also recalling that the use and possession, including possession for personal consumption, of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances shall be limited to medical and scientific purposes, in accordance with the international drug control framework,

Reaffirming the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity of States and non-intervention, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, when addressing the world drug problem,

Have agreed to make the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should take into account regional perspectives on and approaches to addressing the world drug problem, with full respect for the cultural and religious specificities of each region;

(b) Governments are encouraged to oppose any form of legalization of drugs, in accordance with the three international drug conventions, and to gain an in-depth understanding of the causes and various aspects of the world drug problem, to ensure an efficient way of addressing it;

---

[31] See E/CN.7/2016/10.

[32] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

(c) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its field offices should maintain their leading role in providing capacity-building coordination and technical assistance to Member States in countering the world drug problem at the national, regional and interregional levels;

(d) In the Near and Middle East, priority attention should be given to addressing the production of, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs affecting the region, in particular opiates, cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants, including new psychoactive substances and Captagon, and tramadol;

(e) Coordination among regional law enforcement information centres, such as the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, should be encouraged under the "networking the networks" initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(f) Governments are encouraged to improve access to quality drug dependence treatment services and ensure access to essential psychotropic and narcotic drugs for medical purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse;

(g) In addressing money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from illicit drug trafficking, Governments are encouraged to strengthen national coordination between their counter-narcotics law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units in responding to international requests for mutual legal assistance.

Resolution 59/3

Promoting informal networking within the scientific community and the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the commitments of Member States in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem[33] to ensuring that measures are based on an integrated and balanced approach to drug demand reduction and supply reduction and other related matters and on the principle of common and shared responsibility and scientific evidence-based assessments of the nature and extent of the world drug problem,

Bearing in mind the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[34] in which the need to scientifically evaluate drug supply and demand reduction measures in

[33] Ibid.

[34] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.

order to direct government resources to initiatives that have proved to be successful in tackling the causes of the world drug problem was acknowledged,

Bearing in mind also the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in which Member States reiterated their commitment to promoting, developing, reviewing or strengthening effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to demand and supply reduction strategies,

Mindful of the need to respect internationally accepted standards for scientific research,

Reaffirming the commitments undertaken by the parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[35] to facilitate the exchange of scientific information and the conduct of research on the eradication of illicitly cultivated narcotic plants, and noting the need to enhance the effectiveness of these supply reduction measures, considering their social, health, safety, economic and environmental consequences and sustainability,

Recalling its resolution 58/7 of 17 March 2015, in which it underlined the need for Member States to cooperate closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other international and regional organizations, as well as with the scientific community, including academia, in contributing to the scientific assessment of drug demand and supply reduction policies, drug markets and drug-related crime,

Acknowledging the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant regional and international organizations, to support Member States in promoting informal cooperation and the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem,

Emphasizing the need to promote collaboration between scientific experts, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders in scientific research and to promote the appropriate sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem,

Welcoming the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in convening informal, international, scientific networking meetings in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation with respect to drug dependence and in facilitating the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem,

1. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue convening informal, international, scientific networking meetings of scientists selected by the Office, based upon recommendations by Member States and other relevant stakeholders, and facilitating the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem;

[35] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

2. *Invites* Member States to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its activities to promote informal networking within the scientific community and the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem, including by facilitating, on a voluntary basis, the participation of appropriate experts in such activities;

3. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report on progress made in implementing the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-first session.

Resolution 59/4

Development and dissemination of international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[36] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[37] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[38]

Stressing, in particular, article 38 of the 1961 Convention as amended, according to which parties to the Convention shall take all practicable measures for the prevention of the abuse of drugs, and for the provision of early identification, treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation and social reintegration of the persons involved and shall coordinate their efforts and promote the training of personnel in drug treatment, aftercare, rehabilitation and social reintegration of abusers of drugs,

Bearing in mind the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[39] in which Member States reiterated their commitment to promoting, developing, reviewing or strengthening effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence, as part of a comprehensive, balanced and integrated approach to both supply and demand reduction,

Recalling the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[40]

---

[36] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.
[37] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[38] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.
[39] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.
[40] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[41]

Acknowledging that drug use dependence and disorders are a complex, multifactorial health disorder of a chronic and relapsing nature with psychosocial causes and consequences, which can be prevented and treated,

Convinced of the importance of a multisectoral and fully coordinated approach under which government agencies, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders cooperate, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to support the development of policies and programmes that promote psychosocial, behavioural and medication-assisted treatment, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, as well as rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery support programmes, including for people in the prison system and those recently released from prison, giving special attention to the specific needs of women, children and young people,

Stressing that, as with any other health disorder, the development of standards for the treatment of drug use disorders should be consistent with applicable human rights obligations,

Emphasizing the need to ensure non-discriminatory access to adequate, effective and scientific evidence-based treatment of drug use disorders, including for people affected by such disorders in the prison system and other closed settings, in accordance with national legislation,

Convinced of the importance of providing comprehensive, integrated treatment therapies aimed at preventing relapse to those affected by substance use dependence and disorders, in order to ensure that all people have access to effective treatment and supportive services that promote their recovery, and also convinced of the effectiveness of holistic approaches under which services and support are provided that are tailored to fit individuals' and families' needs, and of promoting the active participation and involvement of those affected by substance use disorders,

Welcoming the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization in raising awareness of drug use disorders as a public health concern and in providing technical assistance to Member States to improve the quality and ensure the availability of and increase access to effective practices for the treatment of drug use disorders,

Noting with appreciation the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization in developing the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, which is a compendium of scientific evidence-based recommendations that reflect best treatment practices for possible use in Member States, as appropriate, and which is to be updated and improved as additional scientific data is collected, including through field testing,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to consider expanding the coverage and improving the quality of drug treatment systems, interventions and policies based on scientific evidence, using the scientific evidence-based international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders developed by the United Nations Office on

[41] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and the international drug control conventions;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to develop initiatives to support the dissemination of the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders;

3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide Member States, upon request, with technical and capacity-building assistance in support of their efforts to implement practices consistent with those international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation;

4. *Encourages* Member States to consider initiating systematic processes of national adaptation of the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders and the adoption of national standards for the accreditation of services, in accordance with national legislation, to ensure a qualified and effective response to drug use disorders, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to assist Member States in those processes, upon request;

5. *Invites* the World Health Organization, within its mandate, to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in assisting Member States, upon request, in the process of national adaptation of those international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders to ensure effective responses to drug use disorders as part of a comprehensive approach;

6. *Invites* Member States, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, as appropriate, to collaborate in the implementation of practices, consistent with the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders through the exchange of information and the provision of assistance, including technical assistance, upon request, with a view to enhancing their ability to implement the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation;

7. *Encourages* Member States to provide input to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization on a regular basis, in accordance with national legislation, based on consultations with relevant stakeholders such as scientists, drug treatment practitioners and non-governmental organizations, and invites the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization to use that input, in the context of their respective procedures, to regularly update the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, in close collaboration with Member States, to reflect the most effective practices;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States, upon request, in improving the knowledge of their policymakers, as well as the capacity of their practitioners and researchers working in the area of treatment of drug use disorders, through the use of the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, where appropriate and applicable and consistent with national legislation;

9. *Also invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue coordinating efforts with other relevant United Nations organizations, in particular the World Health Organization, to disseminate the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders;

10. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 59/5

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[42] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[43] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[44] and welcoming the efforts made by Member States to achieve the aims and objectives of those conventions and comply with their provisions,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and containing the Sustainable Development Goals, in which Member States resolved, inter alia, to end poverty and hunger everywhere, to combat inequalities within and among countries, to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies to protect human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources, as well as to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/182 of 17 December 2015, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly called upon Member States to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes related to the world drug problem,

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/1 of 20 March 2009, entitled "Promoting international cooperation in addressing the involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking, especially as couriers", as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission that underscore the need to take gender into account when developing and implementing drug-related policies and programmes,

[42] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[43] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[44] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Recalling further its resolution 55/5 of 16 March 2012, entitled "Promoting strategies and measures addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies",

Recalling its resolution 58/5 of 17 March 2015, entitled "Supporting the collaboration of public health and justice authorities in pursuing alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature",

Taking note of the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[45] held in 1995, and the associated Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, held in September 2015 in conjunction with the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[46] adopted in 1994,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[47] in which Member States acknowledged the important contribution made by women in curbing the world drug problem, committed themselves to ensuring that drug control policies, measures and interventions took into account the specific needs and circumstances that women face with regard to drug problems, and decided to undertake effective measures to ensure that women, as well as men, had access to, and benefited equally and without discrimination from, drug control policies and strategies by involving them actively in all stages of programme and policy development and implementation,

Gravely concerned about the social barriers, including poverty, that continue to hinder the access of women to treatment for drug use and, in some cases, a lack of sufficient resources allocated for removing those barriers, and fully aware that women are acutely affected by particular consequences of drug abuse, such as sexually transmitted diseases and by the consequences of domestic violence and drug-facilitated crime,

Aware that enhanced educational and employment opportunities for women significantly decrease the risk of their drug abuse and dependence and their involvement in drug-related crimes,

Bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the development of society and the family, and that many women are heads of household and the sole or primary caretakers for children and others such as senior citizens and persons with disabilities,

Reaffirming its role as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters,

---

[45] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[46] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[47] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Recognizing the important role played by civil society in addressing and countering the world drug problem, in particular its gender-related aspects,

Reaffirming the commitment undertaken in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[48] to end all discrimination against women, in particular by achieving equal access for women to health-care services,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to develop, as needed, and implement national drug policies and programmes in full conformity with the international drug control conventions that take into account the specific needs of women and girls, including the need for access to health services developed specifically for their needs, and the needs of women who are the sole or primary caretakers of minors and others, and to exchange information and best practices in this regard;

2. *Encourages* Member States to collect and share quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated by age and sex, related to the world drug problem, including when providing information through the annual report questionnaire as well as when reporting to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as mandated by the three international drug control conventions, and to mainstream a gender perspective in their research and analysis on the various aspects of the world drug problem, with a view to addressing the knowledge gap on women and drug use;

3. *Takes note* of the important role that women and girls play in addressing the various aspects of the world drug problem, and encourages their contributions to the development and implementation of national drug-related policies and programmes;

4. *Encourages* Member States to take into consideration the specific needs and circumstances of women subject to arrest, detention, prosecution, trial or the implementation of a sentence for drug-related offences when developing gender-specific measures as an integral part of their policies on crime prevention and criminal justice, including appropriate measures to bring to justice perpetrators of abuse of women in custody or in prison settings for drug-related offences, and to draw, as appropriate, on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[49] the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)[50] and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules);[51]

5. *Urges* Member States to implement broad-based programmes aimed at preventing women and girls from being used as couriers for trafficking in drugs, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist States in developing such programmes to counter the use and participation of women in the illicit drug trade and to take proper penal measures against organized criminal groups that use women and girls as couriers;

6. *Emphasizes* that, without prejudice to the principle of equality of all before the law, when sentencing or deciding on pretrial measures for a pregnant

[48] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[49] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.
[50] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.
[51] General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex.

woman or a woman who is a child's sole or primary caretaker, non-custodial measures should be preferred where possible and appropriate, with custodial sentences being considered when the offence is serious or violent, and, in this regard, invites Member States to draw on the *Guidelines for Identification and Management of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy*, produced by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, where appropriate and in conformity with national legislation;

7. *Invites* Member States, through collaboration among health and social services and law enforcement and justice authorities, to take into account the specific needs and circumstances of women, including by taking measures to provide safe environments for women, and to use a wide range of alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature, in accordance with national legislation, in order to improve public health and safety for individuals, families and societies;

8. *Encourages* Member States to provide scientific evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and care services that take into account a public health and safety perspective and that are sensitive to the needs of women and girls, and also encourages Member States to increase the coverage of existing programmes and to ensure access to those programmes while providing training and supervision for all relevant health and social care professionals working with women, including in prison settings, in accordance with national legislation;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support Member States, upon request, in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their policies and programmes related to the world drug problem, and invites other relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates, to cooperate in this regard;

10. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to mainstream a gender perspective in all its practices, policies and programmes related to the world drug problem and to contribute appropriately, within its mandate, to the goals and targets of Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[52] realizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

11. *Reaffirms* its request to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, made in its resolution 58/12 of 11 December 2015, to intensify the efforts of the Office to achieve the goal of a 50/50 gender balance within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, while upholding Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

[52] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Resolution 59/6

Promoting prevention strategies and policies

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[53] that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[54] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[55] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[56]

Recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[57] and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[58] adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

Recalling further its resolution 53/1 of 12 March 2010, entitled "Promoting community-based drug use prevention", resolution 53/2 of 12 March 2010, entitled "Preventing the use of illicit drugs within Member States and strengthening international cooperation on policies of drug abuse prevention", resolution 55/10 of 16 March 2012, entitled "Promoting evidence-based drug prevention strategies and policies", and resolution 57/3 of 21 March 2014, entitled "Promoting prevention of drug abuse based on scientific evidence as an investment in the well-being of children, adolescents, youth, families and communities",

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[59]

Gravely concerned that the world drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, in particular children and youth,

Fully aware that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Recognizing that substance use disorder is a chronic, relapsing but preventable and treatable multifactorial health disorder with psychosocial causes and consequences, and stressing the need to provide a full range of policies and programmes that promote the prevention of drug use,

---

[53] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.
[54] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.
[55] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[56] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.
[57] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.
[58] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.
[59] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Recognizing also that preventing the illicit use of drugs is essential to reducing demand for drugs and ensuring social welfare, as part of a balanced approach to drug control,

Bearing in mind the need to adopt a comprehensive approach to drug use prevention that takes into account a gender perspective and focuses on individuals, families, communities and societies as a whole, in order to reduce and effectively address the negative consequences of the illicit use of drugs,

Convinced that prevention that is based on scientific evidence and on a rigorous process of adaptation to socioeconomic circumstances can be a cost-effective approach to preventing the illicit use of drugs and other risk behaviours and is therefore a cost-effective investment in the well-being of all, including children, adolescents, youth, women, families, communities and societies,

Convinced also that international cooperation on the prevention of the illicit use of drugs, taking into account the principle of common and shared responsibility, can assist Member States, upon request, in the establishment of more comprehensive and scientific evidence-based strategies and policies,

Recognizing the important role that relevant stakeholders, including civil society, can play by contributing to a complete picture of the drug situation and by identifying emerging trends at an early stage and providing planners and decision makers, as appropriate, with information that can assist in designing national and regional drug use prevention strategies,

Recognizing also the important role of the media in informing the public and disseminating knowledge on prevention measures through different modalities, such as social media,

Stressing the importance of taking into account applicable human rights obligations, such as the rights of children, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[60] in the implementation of drug prevention programmes and policies,

Emphasizing the importance of implementing the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, which constitute a relevant tool by summarizing the currently available scientific evidence and describing interventions and policies and their characteristics that have been found to result in positive prevention outcomes,

1. *Encourages* Member States to continue developing, updating and evaluating national policies for the prevention of the illicit use of drugs, in particular among families, children and youth, taking into account the best available scientific evidence;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to implement population-wide, targeted and indicated prevention measures to strengthen resilience among youth and children;

3. *Invites* Member States to share their advances in prevention policies and strategies and information on their effectiveness, to promote international cooperation and dialogue;

[60] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

4. *Urges* Member States to provide political support, and appropriate resources, to efforts relating to the prevention of the illicit use of drugs and its adverse consequences;

5. *Invites* Member States to promote the collection of data on drug use and epidemiology and to promote the use of international standards, such as the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, to formulate effective prevention strategies and programmes;

6. *Encourages* Member States to develop and implement prevention-specific policies and interventions aimed at the healthy and safe development of children and youth, who are particularly vulnerable to individual or environmental risks;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to take into account gender and age when providing related services in the development of drug prevention strategies and activities;

8. *Urges* Governments to address the misuse of pharmaceuticals by formulating and implementing effective, scientific evidence-based prevention strategies, as appropriate, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to implement comprehensive measures to prevent the illicit use of drugs from a perspective that considers the individual as well as the community and society as a whole, including through public health interventions;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote healthy lifestyles, such as through physical activity, sport and recreation programmes, to develop social skills and other protective factors, to promote education and awareness programmes in multiple settings, involving families, teachers, students, health professionals, community leaders and social workers, and to share good practices with the international community, and encourages the dissemination of such practices;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to develop and implement comprehensive drug use prevention programmes, using a multi-agency approach, such as through health, education and law enforcement authorities, as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* Member States to include new psychoactive substances within the scope of prevention programmes and, if deemed necessary, to design specific prevention initiatives targeting this problem;

13. *Also encourages* Member States to develop tailored prevention policies for new psychoactive substances, when appropriate, and to actively share information and expertise on effective interventions;

14. *Further encourages* Member States to promote the development of scientific evidence-based interventions and policies to prevent and counter the illicit sale and purchase of internationally or nationally controlled substances and new psychoactive substances over the Internet, paying specific attention to the protection of specific groups, such as youth and indigenous peoples, and taking into account the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*;

15. *Urges* Member States to be aware that social exclusion could contribute to the illicit use of drugs, poor health, poverty and inequality and that it is important to attend to the basic well-being of individuals in need, respecting their human rights and dignity, in order to effectively prevent the illicit use of drugs;

16. *Encourages* Member States to take practical preventive measures to protect their populations from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by providing them with opportunities to develop life skills, such as through vocational training, to enjoy equal positive and productive opportunities and to learn about supportive parenting;

17. *Encourages* cooperation with universities, schools, other educational institutions, subject to domestic legislation, and civil society, as well as with relevant international organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates, to develop prevention programmes that include guidance on effective prevention strategies in communities and various school settings;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the measures taken and on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 59/7

Promotion of proportionate sentencing for drug-related offences of an appropriate nature in implementing drug control policies

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the concept of proportionate sentencing provided for under article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[61] and the importance of promoting proportionate sentencing for drug offences, so as to ensure a just, humane and effective criminal justice response to the drug problem,

Recognizing that the 1988 Convention requires States parties to ensure that the commission of the offences established pursuant to the Convention are liable to sanctions which take into account their degree of gravity and distinguish between offences that are "particularly serious" and offences of a minor nature,

Reaffirming the principle that it is the responsibility of States to define crimes and determine appropriate sentencing with due regard to, inter alia, the need to deter the commission of drug-related offences,

Recalling the principle enshrined in all three international drug control conventions that the description of offences is reserved to the domestic law of States

[61] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

parties and that such offences shall be prosecuted and punished in conformity with that law,

Recognizing that the 1988 Convention requires States parties to ensure that their courts and competent authorities can take into account factual circumstances,

Taking note of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/5 of 17 March 2015,

Noting that the three international drug control conventions presuppose the concept of proportionate sentencing in criminal law, which provides that the severity of penalties is proportionate to the gravity of the crimes,

Recalling the appropriate United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice,

Recalling also the principle of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States,

Recalling further that the three international drug control conventions establish that States may provide, either as an alternative to conviction or punishment or in addition to conviction or punishment, that drug-using offenders should be offered measures such as treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation or social reintegration,

Noting that some Member States may provide alternative measures to prosecution or imprisonment which do not entail any impunity, in accordance with their national legislation,

Recognizing that the application of proportionate sentencing to drug-related offences can enable States parties to better achieve the aims and objectives of the three international drug control conventions,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining the integrity of applicable national legislation, in particular criminal law,

1. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that, subject to their constitutional principles and the basic concepts of their legal system, their national law satisfies the requirements set forth in the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[61] that sentencing for drug-related offences is proportionate to the severity of the offence and takes into account the facts and circumstances of each case, and also takes into consideration, as appropriate, the relevant United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice;

2. *Invites* Member States, subject to their constitutional principles and basic concepts of their legal system, to promote proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences, where the severity of sentence is proportionate with the gravity of the offences and both mitigating and aggravating factors are taken into account, including the circumstances enumerated in article 3 of the 1988 Convention and other relevant and applicable international law, and in accordance with national legislation;

3. *Also invites* Member States to consider, subject to the basic principles of their legal systems, to develop or adopt measures such as education, treatment, rehabilitation or social reintegration, as an alternative or in addition to conviction or

punishment for drug-related offences, in full compliance with the appropriate provisions of article 3 of the 1988 Convention;

4. *Further invites* Member States, on a voluntary basis and through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to share information, lessons learned, experiences and best practices on the design, implementation and results of appropriate domestic practices on proportionate sentencing pursuant to the three international drug control conventions, including article 3 of the 1988 Convention;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, upon request, technical assistance for the implementation of the present resolution, and encourages the Office to assist Member States in sharing information, as appropriate;

6. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 59/8

Promotion of measures to target new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Deeply concerned about the combination of the diversity of new psychoactive substances and the speed with which such substances emerge and spread, which often requires the swift adaptation of national regulatory frameworks and subjecting the most prevalent, persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances to international control,

Noting that drug traffickers are exploiting the market to make available an increasing number of new psychoactive substances as alternatives to internationally controlled drugs for purposes of abuse,

Recognizing that new psychoactive substances can have effects similar to those of internationally controlled drugs and that there are still gaps in knowledge of the negative consequences and risks to public health and safety of such substances,

Underscoring the common challenge of reducing the diversion of chemicals that are used in the production of both new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and that an effective response requires a balanced and integrated approach, while also ensuring that legitimate trade is not adversely affected,

Recognizing that illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, continue to adversely affect regions of the world to different degrees,

Concerned that non-scheduled precursor chemicals are being used in the manufacture of illicit drugs and may be used in the manufacture of new psychoactive substances and as substitutes for internationally scheduled precursor chemicals,

Recognizing that a comprehensive global response to new psychoactive substances requires distinct but complementary approaches at the national, regional and international levels, including international scheduling of the most persistent, prevalent and harmful substances,

Recognizing also that Member States face different challenges in reducing the supply of and demand for new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants while ensuring that the legitimate use of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, is not adversely affected,

Recognizing further the importance of having in place appropriate national legislative, regulatory and administrative policies that can respond to emerging new psychoactive substances in a timely and effective manner,

Recognizing the importance of applying national precursor controls and of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with the goal of avoiding shifts in diversion patterns across borders,

Emphasizing the need to promote technical and financial assistance to countries, especially to developing countries, in effectively addressing the challenge of new psychoactive substances, including by providing equipment and training for the detection and identification of new psychoactive substances,

Recalling its resolutions 55/1 of 16 March 2012, 56/4 of 15 March 2013, 57/9 of 21 March 2014 and 58/11 of 17 March 2015, on enhancing international cooperation on new psychoactive substances, in particular relating to sharing information on supply reduction and demand reduction strategies, including emerging scientific evidence about effective treatment models, and by supporting the international drug scheduling system to meet the challenges posed by these substances,

Highlighting the important role of the International Narcotics Control Board in the ongoing success of the Project Ion Incident Communication System in improving understanding of the problem of new psychoactive substances, and the role of the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the collection of information on new psychoactive substances,

Recognizing the value of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and of the World Health Organization in supporting the development of an international response to the challenge of new psychoactive substances through the provision of scheduling recommendations regarding new psychoactive substances to the Commission, as noted in its resolution 57/9,

Noting the efforts of the World Health Organization to regularly review new psychoactive substances for potential control under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[62] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[63]

---

[62] Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.
[63] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

Welcoming the relevant assessments of precursor chemicals conducted, as necessary, by the International Narcotics Control Board under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[64] and the role that the Precursors Incident Communication System plays in facilitating communication among competent authorities,

Taking note of the outcomes of the international conference on precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances jointly convened by the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Bangkok from 21 to 24 April 2015,

Recognizing that voluntary industry cooperation is an effective measure to address the diversion of non-scheduled precursors for their use in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances,

Deeply concerned about the exploitation or misuse of the Internet and social media by drug traffickers in the sales and promotion of illicit drugs, new psychoactive substances and precursors, as well as the increasing use of communication technologies, including the Internet, online payment systems and virtual currencies, for purchasing these substances and laundering the proceeds of the sale thereof,

Welcoming the placing of selected precursors and new psychoactive substances under international control, including the 10 substances placed under control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-eighth session, while recognizing that the international scheduling of priority substances could be complemented by enhanced domestic and international action to develop a balanced and integrated response,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop effective, scientific evidence-based, balanced and integrated domestic programmes for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation that are relevant to the problems associated with new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including health and psychosocial aspects, and to share those programmes and evaluations of their effectiveness through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels;

2. *Urges* continued focus, in the context of national legislation, on amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and the negative consequences these substances have on people, families, communities and societies, and the environmental damage caused by their illegal manufacture;

3. *Encourages* Member States to consider the central role of precursor chemicals in the illegal production of all synthetic drugs, especially new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

4. *Urges* Member States to support research on and analysis of patterns of use, public health harms, including evidence of acute toxicity and dependence resulting from the use of new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, and forensic data and regulatory responses, and to share findings through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels;

---

[64] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

5. *Urges* Member States, as well as regional organizations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant organizations, to continue to collect data and share information, in line with their respective mandates, so as to build a collective global understanding of the movement and trafficking of precursor chemicals, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and new psychoactive substances and better inform evidence-based policymaking and operational cooperation;

6. *Invites* Member States to respond swiftly and effectively to the emergence of new psychoactive substances by considering a variety of controls and regulatory, legislative and administrative initiatives as part of a timely, effective, comprehensive, balanced and integrated domestic response, including legislation on controlled substance analogues, generic laws based on chemical structures of substances, full regulatory approaches, temporary, provisional or emergency control measures, rapid scheduling procedures and other national legislative or regulatory approaches, including those relating to therapeutic drug products, consumer protection and hazardous substances;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to exchange information through bilateral and multilateral channels on legislative, regulatory, administrative, law enforcement and border control responses, including those that address promotion, distribution and sales through the Internet, in order to effectively manage the challenge posed by new psychoactive substances and, where appropriate, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

8. *Invites* the World Health Organization, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, relevant regional organizations and Member States, to continue conducting regular, efficient, transparent and timely reviews of the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances and to use the potential impact of toxicity at both the population and individual levels as the primary factor in prioritizing substances for review;

9. *Also invites* the World Health Organization, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, relevant regional organizations and Member States, to disseminate its surveillance list of substances of concern, to proactively collect evidence on these substances that supports future evidence-based reviews and to issue voluntary public health alerts where there is sufficient evidence that a new psychoactive substance poses a risk to public safety;

10. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board to systematically collect relevant information and, as necessary, to conduct assessments of non-scheduled precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of illicit drugs and new psychoactive substances, with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, relevant regional organizations and Member States;

11. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board and its Project Ion, in consultation with Member States, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant regional organizations, to maintain and disseminate the newly created limited international special surveillance lists of new psychoactive substances for which sufficient information exists on their public health harms, prevalence and absence of currently recognized medical or industrial use in order to support border control, law enforcement and regulatory efforts;

12. *Invites* all Governments to explore, where appropriate, the full potential of cooperation between competent and other relevant national authorities and relevant industries and trades of all sizes and at all levels in order to prevent the diversion of internationally scheduled and non-scheduled precursor chemicals and the supply of new psychoactive substances to markets for illicit or harmful purposes;

13. *Encourages* Governments to make use of the International Narcotics Control Board *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*,[65] as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to develop voluntary mechanisms of cooperation, such as memorandums of understanding with all relevant industrial sectors, and to incorporate the principles of such cooperation into the concept of corporate social responsibility;

14. *Encourages* all Member States to establish arrangements, whether voluntary, administrative or legislative, in accordance with national legislation, whereby their domestic operators involved in the trade of the substances included in the international special surveillance lists of non-scheduled precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances, or any similar list maintained by Member States, will report suspicious orders of those chemicals and substances, where appropriate, and cooperate with relevant national enforcement, regulatory and control authorities with regard to those chemicals and substances;

15. *Invites* Member States to voluntarily inform the authorities of transit and destination countries, in accordance with national legislation, when they are made aware of suspicious shipments, duly corroborated by the relevant national authorities, of new psychoactive substances and non-scheduled precursors that are generally believed to be used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances included in international surveillance lists, so that those authorities may take action, as appropriate, with regard to incoming shipments;

16. *Reminds* Member States, subject to their constitutional principles and legal systems, to take civil, criminal or administrative action against unlawful actions by suppliers of and traders in controlled substances;

17. *Encourages* Governments, in accordance with their national legislation, to make full use of existing tools, including those provided by the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular Pre-Export Notification Online, the Precursors Incident Communication System, the Project Ion Incident Communication System and the mechanisms and operations under Project Prism, Project Cohesion and Project Ion, for the exchange of information and common investigations, in order to address the sourcing of, movement of and trafficking in non-scheduled precursors and new psychoactive substances;

18. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider providing technical assistance to Member States, in particular to developing countries, upon request, to develop timely and effective legislative, regulatory, administrative and operational responses to emerging new psychoactive substances;

19. *Invites* Member States to promote technical and financial assistance, especially to developing countries, upon request, in effectively addressing the

[65] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.17.

challenge of new psychoactive substances, including by providing equipment and training for the detection and identification of new psychoactive substances;

20. *Urges* Member States, in consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant regional and international organizations, to provide support for the training of experts and officials in various aspects of regulatory controls, with particular emphasis on the monitoring and control of substances, and effective voluntary cooperation with relevant industries, bearing in mind that such training may often be best delivered on a regional basis;

21. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Decision 59/1

Inclusion of acetylfentanyl in Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided to include acetylfentanyl in Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.[66]

Decision 59/2

Inclusion of MT-45 in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided to include MT-45 in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.[67]

Decision 59/3

Inclusion of *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) in Schedule I of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 48 votes to none to include *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) in Schedule I of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.[68]

[66] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[67] Ibid.
[68] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

Decision 59/4

Inclusion of α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α-PVP) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 48 votes to none, with 1 abstention, to include α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α-PVP) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.[69]

Decision 59/5

Inclusion of *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 48 votes to none, with one abstention, to include *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.[70]

Decision 59/6

Inclusion of methoxetamine (MXE) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 48 votes to none, with 1 abstention, to include methoxetamine (MXE) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.[71]

Decision 59/7

Inclusion of phenazepam in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 46 votes to 2, with no abstentions, to include phenazepam in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.[72]

[69] Ibid.
[70] Ibid.
[71] Ibid.
[72] Ibid.

Chapter II

Special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

A. Opening of the special segment

5. The special segment of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held from 14 to 16 March 2016. The special segment was opened by the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission, in its decision 57/2, with the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. The Commission adopted the agenda and organization of work for its special segment, as contained in Commission decision 58/15 and the annexes to document E/CN.7/2016/15. The substance of agenda item 4 was subsumed under the special segment.

6. At the opening of the fifty-ninth session and the special segment, the Commission viewed a video statement by the President of the General Assembly. Statements, including on issues relating to the preparations for the special session, were made by the representative of the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of African States), the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States) and the representative of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine).

7. For its consideration during its special segment, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Contribution of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (UNODC/ED/2016/1);

(b) Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2016/6);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on organizational arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (E/CN.7/2016/15).

B. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

8. At its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 14 to 16 March 2016, the Commission considered item 3 of the agenda for the special segment, entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held

in 2016". Sub-items (a) to (c) of agenda item 3 were considered jointly by the Commission in the format of a general debate.

9. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, Colombia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Czech Republic, Afghanistan, the Russian Federation, Ecuador, Peru, the United States of America, Singapore, Mexico, India, Portugal, Brunei Darussalam, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Germany, France, Tajikistan, Spain, Uruguay, Nigeria, Poland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Jordan, Brazil, El Salvador, the Philippines, Romania, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, Guatemala, Algeria, Turkey, Kuwait, Chile, Cuba, Qatar, Belgium, Morocco, Tunisia, the Sudan, Iraq, Mozambique, Indonesia, Japan, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Croatia, Viet Nam, China, Israel, Honduras, Egypt, Namibia, Slovenia, Kenya, the Dominican Republic, Argentina, Hungary, Switzerland, Yemen, the Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan and Angola.

10. The observer for the Holy See made a statement. The representative of Singapore made a statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The observers for the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the League of Arab States and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe made statements. The observers for the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Union of South American Nations and the African Union also made statements. The observers for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies made statements.

11. The observers for the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and the Civil Society Task Force for UNGASS 2016, Active — Sobriety, Friendship and Peace, Europe against Drugs, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals, the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network and Penal Reform International made statements.

12. Representatives of the Youth Forum also made a statement.

13. Many speakers emphasized the significant efforts undertaken by the Commission in leading the preparatory process and commended the efforts made by and the leadership of the Board tasked with the preparations for the special session. The inclusiveness of the preparatory process for the special session was welcomed by several speakers.

14. Speakers emphasized that the special session would provide a key opportunity for the international community to take stock of the achievements of the international drug control system to date and to review progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in addressing the world drug problem.

15. Many speakers reaffirmed their commitment to the effective implementation of the three international drug control conventions, as well as the importance of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member

States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. It was noted by several speakers that there was sufficient scope and flexibility within the conventions to accommodate different national and regional approaches, and a number of speakers noted that there was no "one-size-fits-all" solution to addressing the world drug problem. Many speakers also referred to the importance of other relevant international legal instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to addressing the world drug problem. It was noted by several speakers that the fundamental goal of the international drug control conventions was to ensure the health and welfare of humankind.

16. It was stressed that the world drug problem remained a major and complex challenge for the international community that gave rise to serious public health consequences and required a balanced, integrated and comprehensive approach on the basis of common and shared responsibility, in accordance with the international drug control conventions. A number of speakers referred to new approaches, visions and realities and noted that it should be possible for countries to develop their own drug control policies and that an open dialogue, taking into account lessons learned and experiences of States, was needed.

17. Several speakers noted that the special session would allow the international community to elaborate on the significant challenges in the context of the national, regional and global responses to the world drug problem and to identify effective drug policies.

18. Many speakers recognized the leading role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the United Nations organ with the prime responsibility for drug control matters, including in the preparatory process for the special session, as well as the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as the leading entity in the United Nations system for assisting Member States in countering the world drug problem.

19. Several speakers highlighted the importance of the adoption, on 25 September 2015, of General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", stressed its importance in the context of addressing the world drug problem and noted that, in setting the agenda towards 2019, the special session should undertake concrete actions to contribute to achieving the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda.

20. Several speakers highlighted the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law and the right to health, and of a people-centred approach to addressing the world drug problem.

21. Several speakers referred to the importance of ensuring proportionality of sentencing and alternatives to conviction or punishment, especially for persons who committed minor, non-violent drug-related offences. Several speakers reaffirmed their strong opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related offences, and called for a moratorium on the death penalty. Other speakers stressed that the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States should be fully respected and, in that regard, further stressed that every country had the sovereign right and responsibility to decide and implement the most appropriate approach to addressing the world drug problem.

22. The importance of further enhancing efforts to ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, trafficking and abuse, was highlighted by many speakers.

23. Speakers called for a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies, policies and laws, which also included efforts to mainstream the gender perspective as well as address the specific needs of children and young people. The crucial need for evidence-based, coordinated and long-term prevention programmes, strategies and measures, with a focus on young people, families and schools and other social settings, was stressed.

24. Reference was made to the increasing recognition by many States that drug addiction was also a public health rather than solely a law enforcement issue and that States should promote policies based on development, public health and human rights. Several speakers stressed the need to guarantee access to comprehensive, evidence-based drug demand reduction services that included primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery and social reintegration. A number of speakers referred to the effectiveness of risk and harm reduction measures and recommended their implementation to States.

25. Several speakers expressed their concern regarding the legalization and decriminalization of certain drugs in some regions of the world and noted that they were contrary to the spirit and the letter of the three international drug control conventions, while also hindering ongoing efforts to combat the world drug problem. Other speakers noted that it was every country's sovereign right and responsibility to design and implement its own approaches to and policies on drug control.

26. Several speakers stressed the need to urgently address the linkages between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons and trafficking in firearms, as well as money-laundering, corruption, cybercrime, violence and terrorism and its financing. The threat posed by drug trafficking to stability, safety and security was also recognized, as was the need to tackle illicit financial flows arising from drug trafficking and other forms of crime.

27. The importance of reinforcing regional and international cooperation in the areas of exchange of intelligence and information, including on best practices relating to drug control strategies, as well as mutual legal assistance and extradition, was emphasized by several speakers.

28. Appreciation was expressed for regional cooperation frameworks, and the need for greater cooperation between subregional and regional cooperation networks was noted. Reference was made by several speakers to the Declaration of Santo Domingo adopted by the third Ministerial Meeting on the World Drug Problem of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. Other speakers referred to the position statement adopted at the fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters.

29. The rapid emergence and continued proliferation of new psychoactive substances, the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and the risk that they posed to public health were acknowledged. The need for innovative, balanced and evidence-based national and international approaches to and frameworks for dealing

with new psychoactive substances was stressed. Reference was also made to the need to further strengthen and coordinate the strategy on the control of precursors diverted for illicit use.

30. A number of speakers called for increased technical and financial assistance to transit and developing countries to enhance their capacities to address the world drug problem, and called on UNODC to continue mobilizing resources in that regard.

31. The importance of alternative development, including preventive alternative development, and the need for investment by donors and affected countries in such programmes, was highlighted. Reference was made to the outcome of the international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Bangkok from 19 to 24 November 2015.

32. The Commission and UNODC were encouraged to seek and strengthen synergies with other United Nations specialized agencies, organs and entities and relevant international organizations, in accordance with their mandate. The important role of the International Narcotics Control Board in addressing the world drug problem was noted. Speakers stressed the importance of participatory approaches and cooperation and the role of civil society, the scientific community, academia and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of drug policies at the local, national and international levels.

C. Other business

33. At its 13th meeting, on 22 March 2016, the Commission considered item 4 of the agenda for the special segment. No issues were raised under the item.

D. Outcome and closure of the special segment

34. At its 13th meeting, on 22 March 2016, the Commission considered item 5 of the agenda for the special segment.

35. A statement was made by the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session.

36. The Commission considered the implementation of its decision 58/16, in which it had defined the modalities for the organization of the five interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables to be held during the special session. The Chair of the Board informed the Commission that the nominations that the President of the General Assembly had received to date had been brought to the attention of the Commission (E/CN.7/2016/CRP.8).

E. Action taken by the Commission

37. At its 13th meeting, on 22 March 2016, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug

problem to be held in 2016" (E/CN.7/2016/L.12/Rev.1). (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, resolution 59/1.)

38. Prior to the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Pakistan noted that, although he had stated, in the course of the preparations for the special session and the negotiations on the outcome document, that the structure of the outcome document should replicate the three-pronged approach of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, in the spirit of compromise and flexibility, his country had decided to go along with the proposal by the Board and the negotiated outcome document. The representative of Pakistan also expressed appreciation for the guidance of the Board in leading the preparations to a successful conclusion.

39. Prior to the adoption of the resolution, the observer for Switzerland noted that his country was generally satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations and that, although Switzerland was not able to join the consensus on the document as a whole, pending approval by his Government of the seventh preambular paragraph, it would not stand in the way of consensus.[73]

40. Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as on behalf of Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and Uruguay. The representative expressed deep regret that the outcome document of the special session did not contain language on the abolition of the death penalty and noted that the parties on whose behalf the statement was made strongly and unequivocally opposed the death penalty in all circumstances. The representative also stated that the death penalty undermined human dignity and that errors made in its application were irreversible. Moreover, imposing the death penalty for drug offences undermined the norms of international law, specifically article 6, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The representative underlined the importance of the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 69/186, on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, which was adopted in December 2014 with an unprecedented number of votes and in which the Assembly, as an interim step, had called for international minimum standards on the use of the death penalty to be respected. Furthermore, the representative noted that the parties on whose behalf the statement was made had welcomed the recent decision of the International Narcotics Control Board to call on countries still applying the death penalty to consider its abolition for drug-related offences. The representative urged Member States to respect the international minimum standards on the use of the death penalty and impose a moratorium on its use as a step towards its final abolition.

41. The representative of Brazil welcomed the adoption of the outcome document of the special session, which was an important step towards more balanced, effective and humane drug policies. He reaffirmed his country's concern regarding the application of the death penalty for drug-related offences and expressed his country's belief that no crime warranted the application of the death penalty, which was a human rights violation. Furthermore, the representative expressed his country's concern regarding the recent increase in the number of executions for

[73] By note verbale dated 30 March 2016, the Permanent Mission of Switzerland informed the Secretariat that it had obtained clearance from the competent authorities and that Switzerland joined the consensus on the resolution as a whole.

drug-related crimes in countries that applied the death penalty, and respectfully proposed to those countries that, with due regard for their national realities, they consider the possibility of adopting a moratorium on the application of the death penalty for drug-related crimes, with a view to its final abolition.

42. The observer for Chile noted his country's agreement with the statement made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union.

43. The representative of Indonesia made a statement, speaking also on behalf of Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The representative put on record the following principled position of those delegations concerning the important issue of the death penalty: there was no international consensus on the issue of the death penalty; the death penalty was not prohibited under international law; its application was a criminal justice matter for individual States, to be decided by their competent authorities, and each State had the sovereign right to decide on its own justice system, taking into account its own circumstances; every State had the sovereign right to choose its own political, economic, social and legal system based on its own best interest; and the issue of the death penalty did not fall under the mandate of the Commission, which was not the right platform to raise that topic. The representative reiterated that the death penalty was an important component of the administration of the law by and the justice systems of the countries on whose behalf he made the statement, that it was imposed only for the most serious crimes and that it served as a deterrent. Furthermore, he stated that the world drug problem continued to pose a threat to the safety and security of all and that those countries had proper legal safeguards and national policies in place that prevented any miscarriages of justice.

44. The observer for Morocco, speaking on behalf of the African Group, expressed appreciation to the Board tasked with the preparations for the special session and its Chair for facilitating consensus and enabling the adoption of the outcome document.

45. The representative of Colombia, also speaking on behalf of Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Switzerland and Uruguay, noted that the outcome document was a step forward and reflected the new avenues along which the international community should progress in its debate on the world drug problem. He stated that, owing to the consensus, some issues had remained unresolved that should be resolved in the future in order to have more people-focused policies that would deal with the challenges identified. He noted that much remained to be done and that the United Nations should make preparations to ensure a comprehensive approach for 2019 and beyond. He also recalled that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was an opportunity to align all policies, including drug policies, so that they favoured development, inclusion and peaceful societies.

46. The observer for New Zealand reiterated his country's strong opposition to the death penalty under any circumstances, expressed disappointment that that position was not reflected in the outcome document, noted that his country would continue its efforts for the global abolition of the death penalty at every opportunity and urged other States to do the same.

47. The representative of Australia expressed his country's disappointment that the outcome document did not refer to the abolition of the death penalty and noted that

his country had consistently opposed the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including in relation to drug-related crimes, throughout the preparatory process. He stated that the absence of such a reference weakened the impact of the outcome document and that his country would continue to press for global abolition of the death penalty. Australia urged all other Member States to do so as well.

48. The representative of Norway expressed his country's strong regret that there was no reference to the abolition of the death penalty in the outcome document and noted that his country had consistently opposed the use of the death penalty, including for drug-related crimes, throughout the preparatory process. He stated that there was no empirical evidence proving that the death penalty had a deterrent effect and that the absence of any reference to the abolition of the death penalty weakened the impact of the outcome document. The representative also stated that his country would continue to press for the global abolition of the death penalty and respect for the right to life, and urged other Member States to do so as well.

49. The observer for Oman expressed support for the statement made by Indonesia and emphasized the need to observe the three international drug control conventions and to respect the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. He also emphasized the importance of bilateral, regional and international cooperation on drugs and respect for the right of States to adopt their own policies and laws regarding drugs.

50. The representative of Nigeria stated that the outcome document addressed the key issues and concerns within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments. He called on Member States to embrace the document and find solace in the spirit of the Vienna consensus.

51. The observer for Romania noted that, in her delegation's view, sovereignty was not incompatible with the right to life and that modern society had the means to defend itself without definitively denying drug offenders the opportunity to reform.

52. The observer for the United Arab Emirates aligned himself with the statement delivered by Indonesia that it was the sovereign right of States to determine their own national affairs based on their own legal systems, including laws and penal codes. He also noted that the right to life could not be granted to those who took away the lives of others and that States that were calling for the abolition of the death penalty did so as a general principle in relation to all crimes, and he referred to the linkages between the activities of terrorists and those of drug traffickers. He expressed gratitude that the outcome document did not contain a reference to the abolition of the death penalty.

53. The representative of Thailand welcomed the adoption of the outcome document, which was the result of a collective effort.

54. The observer for Tunisia noted that the outcome document expressed the aspirations of all States concerning the fight against drugs, that its adoption was due to the flexibility of many States and that, in that regard, his delegation had accepted language that did not adequately refer to the linkage between drugs and terrorism. He reaffirmed the importance of the three international drug control conventions as the pillars of international policies and of a comprehensive, balanced and shared approach.

55. The representative of the Russian Federation welcomed the adoption of the outcome document and noted that agreeing on it would not have been possible without the great flexibility and the spirit of consensus that had prevailed among Member States.

56. The observer for Iraq reaffirmed the importance of upholding the three international drug control conventions as main pillars. He noted that his delegation's agreement to some amended language in the outcome document did not mean that the three conventions should be overlooked in the context of national, regional or international policies or in the development of other strategies. He expressed the hope that the amended language would not be a precedent concerning the status of the three conventions and would not undermine their role in addressing the world drug problem. He also recalled that criminal justice systems were an internal affair for each Member State and that it was the prerogative of Member States to determine the most constructive approach in line with the magnitude of the challenge, be it the world drug problem or transnational organized crime or terrorism.

57. The observer for the European Union thanked the Board and all partners for their contributions to a truly collective effort.

58. The representative of China welcomed the outcome document, which reaffirmed the commitment to the three international drug control conventions and to the comprehensive and integrated drug control programmes. He noted that the document also reflected the emerging challenges posed by new psychoactive substances and that it laid a good foundation for a successful special session.

59. The observer for Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, acknowledged the spirit of cooperation and flexibility during the negotiations of the outcome document.

60. The observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela pointed out that, for some countries and regions, the drug problem had turned into a punitive activity, threatening governance and becoming an obstacle to human development and the development of societies. He also stated that the political and legal platform provided by the three international drug control conventions should be used to develop an approach for different countries that respected the position of each State Member of the United Nations and that addressed the legal, political and social aspects of the world drug problem based on scientific evidence, learning from historical experience, with a view to emphasizing human rights and applying diverse and well-considered measures within the framework of international law.

61. The observer for Afghanistan welcomed the adoption of the outcome document as an important step forward in the collective efforts to address and counter the world drug problem, in particular the new challenges and threats, including at the regional level. The observer stated that the outcome document was a hallmark of the preparatory process for the special session.

Chapter III

Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions

62. At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 3, which read as follows:

> "Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions:
>
> (a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;
>
> (b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:
>
> (i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
>
> (ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions;
>
> (c) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters."

63. For its consideration of item 3, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2016/2-E/CN.15/2016/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2016/3-E/CN.15/2016/3);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (E/CN.7/2016/12-E/CN.15/2016/12);

(d) Report on the reconvened fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2015/28/Add.1-E/CN.7/2015/15/Add.1).

64. Introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Operations, the Chief of the Financial Resources Management Service and the Chief of the Human Resources Management Service.

65. Statements were also made by the representatives of Brazil, the United States, China, Japan, Thailand and India.

66. The observer for Sweden made a statement.

Deliberations

67. All speakers highlighted the relevance, importance and impact of UNODC drug control programmes in the field and reiterated the continued need for the Office's advice, mobilization of resources and expertise in technical cooperation and for drug policy development.

68. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC to enhance the transparency and accountability of the Office and to strengthen cooperation on programmatic, financial and steering relevant issues between Member States and the Secretariat.

69. Some speakers expressed concerns over the financial situation of UNODC, notably the implications it had for the implementation of the Office's core mandates. Speakers stressed the importance of continuing efforts to reach higher levels of predictable and flexible funding, of widening the donor base and of increasing cost-efficiency, notably by implementing cost-saving measures and tracking costs. Reference was made to the need for UNODC to ensure efficiencies at its headquarters and field offices, and to continue its efforts to reduce the footprint of its headquarters.

70. Some speakers stressed the importance of implementing full cost recovery in a transparent manner, with emphasis on communication with Member States. One speaker called for a thorough assessment of the provisional implementation of full cost recovery, in particular its impact on programme delivery and on the field office network, and called for discussions to start in 2016, well in advance of full implementation. One speaker insisted on the necessity of being consistent in the application of full cost recovery and also insisted on the use of programme support costs to cover certain field office costs. In the context of further improving transparency, reporting and results-based management by UNODC, several speakers highlighted the important work of the Independent Evaluation Unit. One speaker proposed that an evaluation of the Division for Management be conducted in conjunction with the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

71. Some speakers insisted on the importance of ensuring a transparent and successful implementation of Umoja without loss of reporting capacity and without burdening programme delivery. One speaker expressed concerns over the discontinuation of the ProFi system and called for a timely delivery of the new reporting platform. It was noted that financial reporting on technical assistance should resume as soon as feasible.

72. The adoption of Commission resolution 58/12, which included provisions on gender equality and geographical representation, was welcomed, and the need for enhanced exchanges and dialogue between Member States and UNODC on those topics was stressed. It was noted that the Secretariat should seek ways to further improve its recruitment policies and to actively reach out to qualified candidates from developing countries, particularly female candidates. A number of speakers expressed concern that insufficient progress had been made in achieving gender balance, especially at the senior and policymaking levels, and urged UNODC to take action in that regard. UNODC was called upon to develop a comprehensive strategy to promote gender balance and geographical diversity. The importance was

highlighted of promoting highly qualified professionals from within the organization, notably through the implementation of measures to ensure work-life balance, including family-friendly measures, at both the headquarters and field offices.

73. The initial responses given by UNODC to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals was highlighted, together with the importance of orienting the implementation of the strategic plan of UNODC to assisting Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with due regard for its universal and integrated nature. It was suggested that UNODC make full use of opportunities for collaboration with other United Nations entities and development actors.

74. While expressing appreciation for the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNODC, one speaker stated that his country did not share the views contained in its paragraph 101 (b).

Chapter IV

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

75. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 16 and 17 March, the Commission considered agenda item 5, entitled "Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016".

76. For its consideration of item 5, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2016/2-E/CN.15/2016/2);

(b) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2016/4);

(c) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2016/5);

(d) Report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2016/6);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/CN.7/2016/7);

(f) Report of the Executive Director on responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users (E/CN.7/2016/8);

(g) Report of the Secretariat on strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative (E/CN.7/2016/11);

(h) Note verbale dated 14 January 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2016/13);

(i) Report of the Executive Director on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, from the anti-money-laundering perspective (E/CN.7/2016/14).

77. Introductory statements and presentations on agenda item 5 were made by the Director of the Division for Operations, the Chief of the Research and Trend

Analysis Branch, the Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch and a representative of the Sustainable Livelihoods Unit of UNODC.

78. A statement was made by the representative of the Netherlands (on behalf of the States members of the European Union, as well as Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine).

79. Statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, China, Brazil, the United States, Mexico, Nigeria, Kenya, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Norway, France, Thailand, India and Japan.

80. Statements were also made by the observers for the United Republic of Tanzania, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Algeria, Morocco and Iraq.

81. The observer for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals also made a statement.

A. Deliberations

82. It was noted that the world drug problem continued to pose serious risks to the health and safety of citizens and families and to the stability and sustainable development of societies. The need for continuing commitment to the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments was stressed. The need for a balanced and multidisciplinary approach to supply and demand reduction policies was emphasized, as was the need to strengthen and support the efforts of other countries. The work of UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board in relation to the implementation of the conventions and of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action was highlighted.

1. Demand reduction and related measures

83. The need for a balanced and comprehensive approach to demand reduction, based on the principles of public health and human rights, was emphasized. It was noted that, in order to be effective, demand reduction policies should, within a comprehensive health approach, cover a range of equally important and mutually reinforcing evidence-based measures such as prevention, treatment, early detection and intervention, rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery. Reference was made to the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* prepared by UNODC, and the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders prepared by UNODC and WHO and made available to the Commission (see E/CN.7/2016/CRP.4). The need for awareness-raising and drug use prevention education measures, including in families and schools, and the importance of reducing stigmatization and discrimination were highlighted. Communities were called on to increase the coverage of rehabilitation and employment services.

84. Existing challenges, particularly with regard to increasing the coverage of demand reduction interventions, and the need to train service providers were acknowledged.

85. It was noted that the successful implementation of demand reduction programmes required close coordination and coherence between the criminal justice, health, social and other sectors, including in the delivery of interventions for

drug prevention and treatment, and for HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs.

86. The importance of taking into account the gender perspective in the context of the prevention of drug use, the treatment of drug use disorders and in efforts to effectively reduce HIV and hepatitis C transmission among people who use drugs, including in prison settings, was stressed.

87. The special needs of children, adolescents, young people and women, as well as the importance of involving women in drug policy design and implementation, were highlighted. Some speakers also made reference to the need to involve civil society in the formulation and implementation of drug policies at all levels.

88. A number of speakers expressed the view that effective and comprehensive demand reduction policies should also include risk and harm reduction measures. One speaker noted that, while his country supported treatment measures, it was opposed to the uniform promotion of harm reduction policies. The speaker stated that each Government should take into account the social and cultural aspects of drug use in its country.

89. The need to improve evidence-gathering and research was noted. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of capacity to collect objective information on emerging trends and to monitor and evaluate the situation and the responses given to it.

90. Reference was made to the need for synergy between drug prevention and violence prevention policies.

2. Supply reduction and related measures

91. Joint operations by different jurisdictions and cross-border cooperation were reported as being effective in combating drug trafficking, as was the exchange of information on illicit trafficking and related illicit financial transactions. States were called upon to strengthen mutual legal assistance capabilities, establish central authorities and maintain effective points of contact. It was noted that, to be more effective, supply reduction policies should be based on an improved evaluation and analysis of drug markets and drug-related crimes, and on the effectiveness of drug-related law enforcement responses.

92. Cannabis trafficking and the continuing proliferation and manufacture of new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, were highlighted. Also highlighted was the ongoing importance of maintaining effective border controls and ensuring regional and international cooperation to combat the trafficking in and diversion of precursor and pre-precursor chemicals. The need to review legislation in order to improve efforts to combat drug trafficking and meet emerging challenges, such as the evolution of synthetic drug manufacturing and the misuse of the Internet for the purpose of drug trafficking, was noted.

93. Some speakers reaffirmed their strong opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related offences. Other speakers noted that a strong law enforcement approach against transnational organized criminal groups and individuals involved in drug trafficking was necessary.

94. Reference was made to the need to ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, trafficking and abuse.

95. Alternative development was recognized as a critical component in reducing illicit drug crop cultivation, enhancing human development, improving viable economic livelihoods and promoting sustainability. Representatives of States that did not yet implement alternative development programmes expressed their strong interest in implementing such programmes, including in order to address the illicit cultivation of cannabis, taking into consideration best practices and lessons learned. They called for cooperation and international support in that regard. Several speakers welcomed the growing number of countries engaging in alternative development and reaffirmed their commitment to sharing experiences and lessons learned with other countries. Support was expressed for giving market access to products stemming from alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development. Reference was made to the need to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and to the outcome of the Second International Conference on Alternative Development. The important role of alternative development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was highlighted.

3. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation

96. The issue of illicit financial flows derived from drug trafficking and the need to combat money-laundering were highlighted. In that regard, the need for continuous intelligence work on the strongest links between illicit financial flows and the drug markets by, inter alia, monitoring and identifying such flows was noted. Reference was made to the importance of coordination efforts among relevant institutions at the national level.

97. It was noted that a balanced approach should be taken to combating drug trafficking by focusing on improving the legal, institutional, regulatory and operational frameworks to combat money-laundering in accordance with international conventions and national legislation, including in order to counter the financing of terrorism and other crimes. The role of inter-agency and international cooperation in various forms, including information-sharing between financial intelligence units and law enforcement agencies, was highlighted as an essential element in detecting, investigating and disrupting the ways in which drug traffickers financed their activities, including where there were links with the financing of terrorism.

B. Action taken by the Commission

98. At its 12th meeting, on 22 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2016/L.3/Rev.1) sponsored by Belarus, Chile, China, Israel, Peru and the Russian Federation. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 59/3.)

99. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2016/L.5/Rev.1) sponsored by Canada, Chile, the Dominican Republic,

Israel, the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Kenya, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, the United States and Uruguay. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 59/4.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of its adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2016/CRP.9, available on the UNODC website.)

100. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2016/L.8/Rev.1) sponsored by Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Israel, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, the United States and Uruguay. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 59/5.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of its adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2016/CRP.9, available on the UNODC website.)

101. Also at its 12th meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2016/L.11/Rev.1) sponsored by Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Israel, Kenya, South Africa, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Serbia, Thailand, the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the United States and Uruguay. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 59/6.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of its adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2016/CRP.9, available on the UNODC website.)

102. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2016/L.2/Rev.1) sponsored by Argentina, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Israel, the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Norway and Uruguay. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 59/7.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of its adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2016/CRP.9, available on the UNODC website.)

103. Also at the same meeting, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a revised draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly (E/CN.7/2016/L.10/Rev.1) sponsored by China, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B.) Following the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of Thailand stated that, in consideration of the important preparatory process for the special session and in the light of the Vienna spirit, the delegations that had sponsored the revised draft resolution, namely China, Germany, Morocco, Myanmar, Peru and Thailand, had decided to withdraw the first and second preambular paragraphs, which would not be considered as a precedent in any future case. The delegations expressed strong support for the principle that the world drug problem should be addressed in accordance with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention

against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which were the cornerstone of the international drug control system, and expressed their conviction that that principle should be reflected in the outcome document. The representative of Germany stated that his country aligned itself with the statement by the representative of Thailand, noted his country's satisfaction with the resolution, which contained many aspects that were important to his delegation, highlighted that alternative development was an important principle of cooperation for his country and expressed gratitude to all those who had contributed to achieving that substantial outcome, which was a step forward. The observer for Morocco expressed support for the statement made by the representative of Thailand. The representative of Indonesia stated that his country aligned itself with the statement by the representative of Thailand. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed support for the statement made by the delegation of Thailand and for the principled view that the world drug problem should be addressed in accordance with the 1961 Convention as amended, the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention, which constituted the cornerstone of the international drug control system. The representative of China expressed his country's support for the statement made by the representative of Thailand and expressed the view that the position of the three international drug control conventions as the cornerstone of the international drug control system should not be cast in doubt. He noted that, although the position of the conventions as the cornerstone was not mentioned in the draft resolution, that should not constitute a precedent. He also stated that the position of the conventions as the cornerstone should be reflected in the outcome document. The representative of Peru stated that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Thailand and noted that, bearing in mind the importance of alternative development as a State policy for Peru and although his country had decided to give priority to the essential focus of the resolution, the withdrawal of the first and second preambular paragraphs should not set a precedent for the future. He also reaffirmed that the three international drug control conventions were the cornerstone of the international legal system for that subject and, therefore, his delegation was convinced that the paragraphs in question should be included in the final outcome document. The observer for Malaysia stated that his country aligned itself with the statement by the representative of Thailand, in particular with regard to the decision to withdraw the first and second preambular paragraphs not being considered as a precedent in any future case and the world drug problem being addressed in accordance with the provisions of the three international drug control conventions, which constituted and remained the cornerstone of the international drug control system. The observer for Iraq stated that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Thailand and expressed support for statements made by States, whereby it was recalled that the three international drug control conventions were the cornerstone in all international drug control policies, as well as in the development of alternative development strategies. He also noted that his delegation did not wish the reference to the conventions as the pillars and cornerstone of international drug control to be deleted and that that should not be considered a precedent. The observer for Egypt noted his delegation's endorsement of the statement made by the representative of Thailand and underscored that the three international conventions were the cornerstone of the international drug control system. The observer for Japan expressed support for the statement made by the representative of Thailand, as well as for the principle that the world drug problem must be addressed in accordance

with the principles of the three international drug control conventions, which were the cornerstone of the international drug control system. The observer for the Philippines noted that his country aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of Thailand and reiterated the importance of the three international conventions. The observer for Viet Nam expressed support for the statement made by the representative of Thailand and reiterated his country's commitment to the ASEAN position, whereby the three international drug control conventions constituted the cornerstone of drug policy, while also highlighting the importance of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem. The observers for Tunisia, Yemen and Oman stated that their delegations aligned themselves with the statement made by the representative of Thailand and underscored that the three conventions were the cornerstone of the international drug control system in addressing the world drug problem.

104. Also at its 12th meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution, as orally amended, (E/CN.7/2016/L.13/Rev.1) sponsored by Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Israel, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Senegal, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 59/8.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of its adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2016/CRP.9, available on the UNODC website.) The observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made statements prior to and following the adoption of the resolution. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that a comprehensive global response to new psychoactive substances required distinct but complementary approaches at the national, regional and international levels, including in the international scheduling of the most persistent, prevalent and harmful substances. The representative also noted that the resolution delivered significant new tools for addressing the harms of such substances, including agreement that public health harms should be the primary factor in prioritizing substances for review, as well as agreement to publish the WHO surveillance list, to proactively collect data on substances on that list and to allow WHO to issue voluntary public health alerts. The representative recognized the division of competence between European Union member States and the European Union on the matters addressed in the resolution. The observer for Japan stated that the resolution was very important in tackling the issues of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances and expressed appreciation to its sponsors.

105. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation announced that draft resolution E/CN.7/2016/L.4 had been withdrawn by its sponsors. Upon the withdrawal of the draft resolution, in his explanation of position, the representative of the Russian Federation explained that no agreement could be reached because of the non-consensus position of one delegation. The representative of the Russian Federation noted that his delegation was determined to have a constructive dialogue and to look for mutually acceptable solutions and that the withdrawal of the draft resolution did not mean that his country's commitment to the UNODC global initiative to decrease the flow of opium from Afghanistan was in any way diminished. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed gratitude to the Paris Pact partners for supporting the draft resolution and for their readiness to increase their efforts to implement the Vienna Declaration adopted in 2012 by the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic

in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan and to have a continued, constructive interaction among Member States, inter alia within the Commission, on countering Afghan opiates on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility of all States, in view of the world drug problem. The representative of France expressed regret that it had not been possible to adopt draft resolution E/CN.7/2016/L.4 and expressed appreciation to the delegation of the Russian Federation and all the other delegations that had played a constructive role in the negotiations on that draft resolution. The representative of France recalled his country's commitment to and support for the Paris Pact initiative, which provided an essential framework for reflection, dialogue and coordination in the fight against trafficking in opiates originating in Afghanistan, both at the political and expert levels. The representative noted that, as also emphasized by the Security Council in its resolution 2274 (2016), the Paris Pact initiative was one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan. The representative of France encouraged all partners in the initiative to continue supporting it financially, to continue cooperating within its framework, specifically through consultative groups, and to take up the challenge of addressing the priorities defined in the Vienna Declaration, while continuously looking to enhance synergies with different UNODC programmes and activities. The observer for Afghanistan stated that his country had held constructive discussions with all delegations, while noting that some of the paragraphs and proposals put forth by some of the delegations were not based on current realities on the ground. The observer also noted that, taking into account some of the financial flows, the trafficking in precursors and the need to tackle the issue through a balanced approach within a global and regional context, no agreement could be reached, and expressed hope that agreement could be reached in the future.

Chapter V

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

106. At its 8th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 17 and 18 March 2016, the Commission considered agenda item 6, which read as follows:

"Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

"(a) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;

"(b) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

"(c) International Narcotics Control Board;

"(d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

"(e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties."

107. For its consideration of item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances (E/CN.7/2016/9);

(b) *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2015* (E/INCB/2015/1);

(c) *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board on the Availability of Internationally Controlled Drugs: Ensuring Adequate Access for Medical and Scientific Purposes* (E/INCB/2015/1/Supp.1);

(d) *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2015 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (E/INCB/2015/4);

(e) *Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties* (ST/NAR.3/2015/1);

(f) A conference room paper entitled "New psychoactive substances: overview of trends, challenges and legal approaches" (E/CN.7/2016/CRP.2).

108. Introductory statements were made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Section of UNODC. An audiovisual presentation was made by a representative of the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch of UNODC. The observer for WHO made introductory statements as well.

109. Statements were made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union. A statement was also made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Armenia,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

110. Statements were made by the representatives of China, Thailand, Japan, Nigeria, the Netherlands, Canada, Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico, the United States, Belarus, the Russian Federation, Austria and the United Kingdom.

111. Statements were made by the observers for Iraq and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

112. Statements were also made by the observers for the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, Viva Rio and Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

A. Deliberations

1. Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations

113. The need for informed international scheduling decisions by the Commission under the conventions to tackle the most harmful, persistent and prevalent new psychoactive substances was highlighted, together with the work of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, supported by UNODC, in identifying the adverse health effects of new psychoactive substances. The importance of ensuring the continued availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances while preventing their diversion was also highlighted.

114. Reference was made to the importance and utility of the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and of the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme. The role of the International Narcotics Control Board in addressing the issue of new psychoactive substances was noted as well.

115. Appreciation was expressed by a number of speakers for the work of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence and States were urged to continue to submit evidence to it in order to support the review process. The importance of enhancing data collection, as well as cooperation between the Committee and UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board and regional organizations, such as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, was recognized. WHO was also urged to make the reports on the meetings of the Committee available to Member States at an earlier stage and to disseminate more widely the list of substances that the Committee recommended should be kept under surveillance.

116. One speaker expressed regret regarding the recommendation of WHO on the scheduling of ketamine, in view of its increasing abuse, illicit manufacture and trafficking, especially in Asia. He noted that its placement under Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention would ensure the application of the principle of a comprehensive and balanced approach to preventing the abuse, diversion and illicit manufacture of and trafficking in the drug, while ensuring its availability for medical use. He called on the Expert Committee to better play its treaty-mandated role, to substantially improve transparency and efficiency, to improve its cooperation with the Commission and to make full use of the information provided by States. He also referred to Commission decision 58/2, whereby the consideration of the proposal to

place ketamine in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention had been postponed and additional information from WHO and other relevant sources had been requested. A number of speakers invited the Commission to consider placing ketamine under Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention.

117. A number of speakers expressed concern regarding the disproportionate impact that the scheduling of the anaesthetic agent ketamine, which was classified as an essential medicine by WHO, would have in lower- and middle-income countries and during emergencies such as wars and natural disasters, or where there were no adequately trained personnel. It was proposed that States continue cooperating and exchanging information on national and regional experiences of tackling the public health harms of the misuse of ketamine. The need to enhance international cooperation to reduce existing technical gaps among Member States was noted.

2. Changes in the scope of control of substances

(a) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place acetylfentanyl in Schedules I and IV of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol

118. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that acetylfentanyl was a compound with typical morphine-like properties, including physical dependence. It had been extensively trafficked internationally, its use had resulted in over 50 recorded deaths and it had no medical uses. The effects of acetylfentanyl were similar to those of morphine and fentanyl, which were included in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended. It was therefore recommended that acetylfentanyl be placed in that Schedule. The Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, at its 37th meeting, had considered that acetylfentanyl was particularly liable to abuse and to producing ill effects without therapeutic advantages, and had therefore also recommended its placement in Schedule IV of the 1961 Convention as amended.

(b) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place MT-45 in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended

119. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that MT-45 was a compound with typical morphine-like qualities, including physical dependence, that its use had been recorded in several countries, that reports existed of fatal and non-fatal overdoses of the substance and that it had no current medical uses. The effects of MT-45 were similar to those of morphine and other opioids that were included in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended; therefore, the Expert Committee had recommended that MT-45 be placed in Schedule I of that Convention.

(c) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention

120. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) was similar to the scheduled substances methamphetamine and *para*-methoxyamphetamine (PMA). He noted that PMMA had effects similar to those of PMA, which was a drug listed in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention. The use of PMMA had been reported in a number of countries and the rate of overdose deaths had been increasing. PMMA had no medical use.

The Expert Committee considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with the abuse of PMMA was especially serious and had therefore recommended that PMMA be placed in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention.

(d) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone, *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) and methoxetamine in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

121. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that the substances α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone, *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) and methoxetamine (MXE) had been abused in a number of different countries and had been shown to have caused multiple overdose deaths. None of the substances had any medical uses. The Expert Committee considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with the abuse of each of the substances was substantial and it had therefore recommended that they be placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

(e) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place phenazepam in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention

122. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that the illicit use of phenazepam had increased in a number of countries in recent years, that its use had been associated with a number of overdose deaths and with an increased risk of traffic accidents and that it was used therapeutically in some countries. Phenazepam had been shown to have effects similar to diazepam and many other benzodiazepines that were included in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention. The Expert Committee considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with the abuse of phenazepam was smaller compared with substances in Schedules I to III, but still significant. Phenazepam had some therapeutic usefulness. The Committee considered that the evidence of its abuse warranted its placement in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention.

123. In response to a request for additional information, the observer for WHO noted that phenazepam belonged to the 1,4-benzodiazepines, the same family to which diazepam, oxazepam and temazepam belonged, and that it had a structural resemblance to diazepam, which was in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention. He also noted that phenazepam could induce tolerance, and that the discontinuation of its administration could result in withdrawal effects, which was indicative of physical dependence. Furthermore, he informed the Commission that user reports had indicated that phenazepam could be used to enhance the euphoric reports of opioids and that effects such as psychomotor impairment, respiratory arrest, psychotic experiences and delirium, as well as overdose and death, had been reported. Driving under its influence had also been reported. He stated that the Expert Committee had undertaken a pre-review of the substance and considered that the information provided in the pre-review report had been sufficient and had indicated that the dependence and harm caused by phenazepam was of such magnitude that proceeding directly into a critical review during the meeting had been warranted. All procedural requirements for a critical review, including two peer reviews, had been fulfilled. Phenazepam had been shown to have effects similar to diazepam, which was listed in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention. The

Committee considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with the abuse of phenazepam was significant.

3. International Narcotics Control Board

124. Appreciation was expressed for the work carried out by the International Narcotics Control Board and for the release of its annual report for 2015. Its important role in monitoring the implementation of the international drug control conventions was welcomed. States were called upon to make better use of the tools made available by the Board, such as the Precursors Incident Communication System, Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) and the International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES).

125. The need for a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem in order to ensure the health and welfare of humankind was reiterated, and continued commitment to the international drug control conventions was expressed. It was noted that socioeconomic aspects, such as poverty, food insecurity, economic inequality and social exclusion, had a negative impact on supply and demand reduction efforts. Reference was made to the obligation of States parties under the conventions to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion and abuse. It was also noted that the conventions required the application of the principle of proportionality and the use of alternatives to imprisonment.

126. A number of speakers encouraged States that imposed the death penalty to consider abolishing it for drug-related offences. Another speaker stated that every country had the right to adopt its own legislation and policies, in line with national and international law. One speaker noted that the recommendation of the International Narcotics Control Board on the death penalty issue went beyond its treaty-mandated duty.

127. Several speakers expressed concern regarding the rapid spread of and the threat posed by new psychoactive substances, as well as regarding the diversion of such substances from domestic channels and the use of precursor chemicals.

128. The role of the Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and WHO in responding to new psychoactive substances was highlighted. Reference was made to the need for partnerships between authorities and the relevant industrial sectors. Reference was also made to the importance of streamlining the review and scheduling processes and WHO was requested to prioritize the review of new psychoactive substances on the basis of prevalence, persistence and potential harm. States were urged to increase voluntary cooperation and efforts to put substances under provisional control under the conventions until international controls could be put into place.

4. International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion

129. Support was expressed for international cooperation in ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. It was noted that, in cases where the scheduling of substances at the international level could result in a lack of availability in some areas, including rural or remote

regions, targeted regulatory measures could be designed to facilitate availability to such substances.

5. Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties

130. At its 9th meeting, on 17 March 2016, the Commission considered agenda item 6 (e), entitled "Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties". No issues were raised under the item.

B. Action taken by the Commission

131. At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs included acetylfentanyl in Schedules I and IV of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 59/1.)

132. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to include MT-45 in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 59/2.)

133. Also at the same meeting, the Commission decided by 48 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 59/3.)

134. Also at its 10th meeting, the Commission decided by 48 votes to none, with 1 abstention, to include α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α-PVP) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 59/4.)

135. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 48 votes to none, with 1 abstention, to include *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 59/5.)

136. Also at the same meeting, the Commission decided by 48 votes to none, with 1 abstention, to include methoxetamine (MXE) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 59/6.)

137. Also at its 10th meeting, the Commission decided by 46 votes to 2, with no abstentions, to include phenazepam in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. D, decision 59/7.) Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Belarus stated that his Government had voted against the scheduling of phenazepam because it was widely used as a medicine and in the medical industry. He requested WHO to provide further clarifications, given that there were similar substances, used in medicine, whose use was restricted, although they were not placed under international control. Also following the adoption of the decision, the representative of the Russian Federation noted that all the substances considered by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session for scheduling, except phenazepam, had already been placed under control in the Russian Federation. The representative expressed disappointment with the outcome of the voting on the scheduling of phenazepam and with the fact that phenazepam had been recommended for scheduling, as it was not a psychotropic or highly active substance. He also noted that, in the Russian Federation, phenazepam was included

in the general list of medical substances and that it had been widely used for medical purposes since the 1970s. The representative stated that there was no evidence of large-scale abuse of phenazepam for non-medical purposes and that the WHO recommendation would limit its use in the treatment of patients who needed it. Furthermore, the representative raised the issue of the motives and transparency of WHO recommendations and noted that WHO should provide clear and detailed criteria describing how it formulated recommendations for scheduling. The representative also recalled the situation with ketamine, the consideration for scheduling of which had been postponed owing to its widespread medical use, and noted that that criterion had not been taken into account in the case of phenazepam. The representative expressed the view that a consistent, comprehensible and substantiated approach to the critical review of substances recommended for scheduling at the international level should be developed.

138. Following the adoption of the decisions on scheduling of MT-45, α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α-PVP), *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) and methoxetamine (MXE), the representative of Austria noted that her Government had abstained from voting because, although global answers on the specific global phenomenon of new psychoactive substances were needed, it questioned whether the existing mechanism was appropriate. She referred to the changing consumer markets for new psychoactive substances, in which a high increase in the number of identified substances had emerged within a few years, and the continued proliferation of new chemical variations. She noted that there was a free market on which those chemicals were profitably sold to consumers until they were scheduled, which was done on an individual basis and after some time. Once scheduled, a few substances, possibly from whole groups of analogue substances, stood in relation to a large number of others that were not scheduled, while new substances continued to emerge. She stated that none of the newly emerging chemicals on the market could be presumed safe for consumption, since none had been subject to studies on the impact of their consumption on health, sound data on the potential health risks of acute and long-term consumption and the effects of interactions with other substances were lacking, no information on the health consequences of consuming those chemicals frequently or over a period of time was available and there was no guarantee that substances were correctly labelled when sold to consumers, as production and trade were not subject to any control. Furthermore, products often contained other substances or higher concentrations than expected by the buyer, which led to consumer incidents. She noted that the situation with new psychoactive substances required tailor-made solutions. Austria had implemented a specific legal approach to the phenomenon of those substances in 2012, with its New Psychoactive Substances Act. Although it had implemented a criminal regime, the offences covered under the Act were exclusively related to supply to consumers; when appropriate, it allowed for a generic approach in order to break the cycle of new substances emerging and the public regulator always lagging behind. The Act enabled law enforcement authorities to act immediately against those who supplied consumers with new psychoactive substances and to seize the substances, unless a legitimate purpose for the substance was identified and the substance was not used for human consumption. She stated that effective health-related interventions were needed, that prevention, information, education and awareness-raising among target groups with regard to the risks played an important role, and that consumers and potential consumers needed to be encouraged to talk openly about new psychoactive

substances they consumed, and why and how they consumed them. She explained that that was why the Government of Austria avoided criminalizing consumers; Austria was convinced that criminalization and penalization would motivate consumers to develop secretive consumption behaviours which, in turn, would make it difficult to provide them with preventive messages and make them aware of the health risks related to the consumption of new psychoactive substances. She noted that all the substances proposed for scheduling by WHO during the session were either already controlled in Austria or would soon be placed under control, most of them under specific regulations on new psychoactive substances. She reiterated the willingness of Austria to cooperate with the international community, while encouraging it to consider new approaches specially designed to address the specific challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, and thereby paying the utmost attention to public health requirements.

139. Following the adoption of all the decisions on scheduling, the representative of the United Kingdom expressed appreciation to WHO for conducting evidence-based reviews of substances under international control and for the support provided by UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and other organizations and Member States. He noted that international scheduling was an effective tool for restricting supply and reducing the public health harms of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances and that a comprehensive and balanced approach to such substances required distinct but complementary approaches at the national, regional and international levels that enhanced national action and were guided by local circumstances. He called for greater ambition from WHO, international organizations and Member States with regard to the number of substances reviewed and scheduled at the international level, where that did not restrict their legitimate use.

Chapter VI

World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

140. At its 12th meeting, on 21 March 2016, the Commission considered agenda item 7, which read as follows: "World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission".

141. For its consideration of agenda item 7, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2016/5);

(b) Report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/2016/10).

142. An introductory presentation was made by a representative of the Implementation Support Section of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch of UNODC. A statement was made by the Secretary of the Commission.

143. Statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, the United States, Spain, Mexico, India, Canada and the Russian Federation.

144. Statements were also made by the observers for Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Egypt and Iraq.

A. Deliberations

145. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East. The observer for Algeria, the representative of Belgium and the observer for the United Arab Emirates reported on the outcomes of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, and the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, respectively, on behalf of the Chairs of those meetings.

146. Reference was made to the importance of focusing on the practical suggestions and operational outcomes emanating from those meetings, the significance of the meetings as effective mechanisms for multilateral action by law enforcement bodies in countering drug trafficking and the opportunity they presented to learn about the results and outcomes of different approaches to the world drug problem.

147. The need for a comprehensive, balanced and integrated approach to the world drug problem was stressed. In that regard, the importance of enhancing international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance and extradition, as well as, where possible, harmonizing laws across countries, was highlighted. Reference was made

to the need for a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction policies and to the importance of closer cooperation between the justice and health sectors.

148. The need to build the capacities of States to tackle the drug problem was noted, as was the need to focus on providing assistance to States that had borne the direct effects of illicit crop cultivation and the illicit manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

149. States that were producing precursor chemicals were called upon to prevent the diversion of such chemicals into the illicit manufacture of drugs. The need for international cooperation in that regard was noted. Reference was made to the establishment by drug traffickers of new trafficking routes in order to avoid monitoring, widen their customer base and identify profitable new markets.

150. Successes such as the development of forensic analysis to dismantle trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, existing regional cooperation initiatives and cooperation between States in money-laundering investigations and asset recovery were noted. Reference was made to article 17 of the 1988 Convention, which was considered an important tool for disrupting trafficking by sea; it was suggested by one speaker that its application be monitored, that analyses and studies be conducted and the topic be revisited in detail during working groups at future meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

151. One speaker proposed that the Commission should consider reviewing, at its next session, the functioning of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies to promote greater regional coordination on drug control and public health control efforts in all regions. One speaker noted that, at future meetings of the subsidiary bodies, priority should be given to human rights, security and development, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One speaker noted that any proposals to extend the area of competence of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the advisability of such a decision should be carefully reviewed, as those meetings had not fully exhausted their potential as outlined in their initial mandates from the Economic and Social Council.

B. Action taken by the Commission

152. At its 12th meeting, on 22 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted a draft resolution (E/CN.7/2016/L.14), as orally amended. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 59/2.)

Chapter VII

Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1

153. At its 12th meeting, on 21 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 8, which read as follows: "Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1".

154. For its consideration of agenda item 8, the Commission had before it a conference room paper on the contribution by UNODC to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the proposed role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in reviewing the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.7/2016/CRP.1-E/CN.15/2016/CRP.1).

155. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs.

156. The representative of the United States made a statement.

Deliberations

157. The important linkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the work of the Commission were highlighted. It was noted that one of the mandates of UNODC was to assist Member States in achieving target 3.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals ("Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol"), which was also a key element of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, which had been adopted in 2009. Reference was also made to the UNODC mandate to promote HIV prevention, treatment and care among people who use drugs or are in prisons so as to contribute to ending AIDS by 2030, as part of target 3.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals ("By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases"). Reference was made to the fact that the parties to the international drug control conventions had recognized that it was indispensable to ensure the availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes and that the availability of those drugs and substances to relieve pain and suffering should not be unduly restricted. UNODC had partnered in particular with WHO and civil society leaders to meet part of target 3.8 ("Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all") and target 3.b ("Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines [...]"). Additionally, the

Office's research work supported countries in the monitoring of and reporting on Goal 3 ("Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages") by implementing drug monitoring systems for the collection of reliable data.

158. It was noted that UNODC would support Member States in reaching the targets under Goal 5 ("Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls") by, inter alia, promoting access to justice for women and girls and supporting the development of legislation and policies to protect the rights of women and girls and prevent as well as respond to violence against women and girls. It was also mentioned that the Office's global work on the prevention of drug use and the treatment of drug use disorders specifically addressed the unique needs of women and girls, as did the fact that the empowerment of women was at the core of the Office's alternative development programmes.

159. Particular emphasis was placed on Goal 6 ("Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"), Goal 8 ("Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all") and Goal 10 ("Reduce inequality within and among countries"). The Office's activities in assisting Member States in reducing illicit financial flows, which contributed to achieving Goal 10, including, in particular, target 10.b ("Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes"), were highlighted. Activities contributing to the implementation of Goal 15 ("Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss") were mentioned as well.

160. Of particular relevance to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and UNODC (which are all based in Vienna) in the 2030 Agenda was Goal 16 ("Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"). Whereas traditional development interventions were focused on vulnerability, the inclusion of Goal 16 in the 2030 Agenda acknowledged the need to deal with the root causes of that vulnerability, as impunity, lawlessness and other problems created opportunities for exploitation of the vulnerable. In that regard, Goal 17 ("Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development") was also important, since improved policy coherence and increased multi-stakeholder partnerships were one of the key elements of the 2030 Agenda, within the respective mandates of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

161. It was stressed that the Sustainable Development Goals provided a unique opportunity to enhance cooperation within the United Nations system. The efforts by the Economic and Social Council to coordinate and harmonize the work of the United Nations system were welcomed. It was also stated that, while the Commission played a leading role as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, other entities, such as WHO, UNAIDS and UNDP, played important roles in formulating drug policy, and the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug

problem to be held in 2016 had shown that there was a need for increased coordination between the public health and justice sectors. It was suggested that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should work to develop new and creative ways to involve other United Nations bodies in its work through expert panels, briefings to the Commission or side events. It was further proposed that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, together with the International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC, should help Member States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of public health, criminal justice and law enforcement, consistent with their obligations under the drug control treaties. It was noted that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should also be involved in those efforts, given, inter alia, the links between drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and money-laundering. It was also noted that the Office's expertise should be fully and appropriately utilized in programmes focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the Office should help Member States and other United Nations agencies to monitor and evaluate progress made in achieving Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and develop evidence-based responses to drugs and crime.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

162. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 22 March 2016, the Commission considered agenda item 10, entitled "Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission". For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda for its sixtieth session" (E/CN.7/2016/L.15).

163. Statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, the United States, Austria, Guatemala and China.

A. Deliberations

164. Speakers expressed their views on the content of the draft agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission.

B. Action taken by the Commission

165. At its 13th meeting, on 22 March 2016, the Commission approved for adoption by the Economic and Social Council the draft decision containing the draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission, as orally amended (E/CN.7/2016/L.15). (For the text, see chap. I, sect. C, draft decision I.)

Chapter IX

Other business

166. At its 13th meeting, on 22 March 2016, the Commission considered agenda item 11, entitled "Other business". No issues were raised under the item.

Chapter X

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session

167. At its 13th meeting, on 22 March 2016, the Commission considered agenda item 12, entitled "Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session". The Rapporteur introduced the draft report (E/CN.7/2016/L.1 and Add.1-6).

168. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the report on its fifty-ninth session, as orally amended.

Chapter XI

Organization of the session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

169. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its fifty-ninth session, including the special segment on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in Vienna from 14 to 22 March 2016. The Chair of the Commission opened the session. A statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. A statement was also made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board.

170. Opening statements, including on issues relating to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, were also made by the representative of the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of African States), the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States) and the representative of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine).

171. The Commission held a total of 12 plenary meetings, including 5 meetings of the special segment, and 7 meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

B. Attendance

172. The session was attended by representatives of 51 States members of the Commission (2 were not represented). Also attending were observers for 80 other States Members of the United Nations, as well as non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.7/2016/INF/2/Rev.2.

C. Election of officers

173. In section I of its resolution 1999/30, the Economic and Social Council decided that, with effect from the year 2000, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should, at the end of each session, elect its Bureau for the subsequent session and encourage it to play an active role in the preparations for the regular as well as the intersessional meetings of the Commission, so as to enable the Commission to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the drug programme of UNODC. Pursuant to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the officers of the Commission hold office until their successors are elected, and are eligible for re-election.

174. In the light of that decision and in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission, after the closing of its reconvened fifty-eighth session, on 11 December 2015,

opened its fifty-ninth session for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. At that meeting, during the consideration of item 1, the Commission elected the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur. In accordance with Council resolution 1991/39 and established practice, a group composed of the chairs of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of or observer for the State holding the Presidency of the European Union assists the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. That group, together with the officers, constitutes the extended Bureau foreseen in Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/39.

175. On 25 February 2016, the Group of Asia-Pacific States informed the Chair that Yong Il Lee of the Republic of Korea could no longer serve as the Rapporteur of the Commission. On 9 March 2016, the Group of Asia-Pacific States nominated Indra Rosandry for the office of Rapporteur. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 March 2016, the Commission elected the Rapporteur.

176. The officers of the Commission at its fifty-ninth session were as follows:

Office	*Region*	*Officer*
Chair	Eastern European States	Vladimir Galuška (Czech Republic)
First Vice-Chair	Western European and other States	Bente Angell-Hansen (Norway)
Second Vice-Chair	Latin American and Caribbean States	Evandro de Sampaio Didonet (Brazil)
Third Vice-Chair	African States	Adelakun Abel Ayoko (Nigeria)
Rapporteur	Asia-Pacific States	Indra Rosandry (Indonesia)

177. During the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, the extended Bureau met on 17 March and 21 March 2016 to consider matters related to the organization of work.

178. At its reconvened fifty-seventh session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted decision 57/2, entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016". In that decision, the Commission decided that, in order to ensure continuity with respect to its work preparing for the special session of the General Assembly, it would elect a Board tasked with the preparations for the special session based on the regional distribution of officers of the Bureau of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission. The Board would participate in the meetings of the extended Bureaux of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Commission and would assist the Commission and the Chairs of the respective sessions in fulfilling their mandate in accordance with Commission resolution 57/5.

179. In the same decision, the Commission decided that the Board would be in charge of organizing all actions to be taken by the Commission in preparation for the special session and would address all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, in preparation for and during the special segments of Commission sessions devoted to the preparations for the special session, and that

it would facilitate the participation of all States Members and observers of the United Nations, along with organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks and other relevant international and regional organizations, parliamentarians, the scientific community and civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in its preparations for the special session, in full compliance with Commission resolution 57/5 and General Assembly resolution 69/200.

180. The officers of the Board tasked with the preparations for the special session, who were elected on 5 December 2014 and on 9 March 2015, are as follows:

Office	*Region*	*Officer*
Chair	African States	Khaled Abdelrahman Shamaa (Egypt)
First Vice-Chairs	Asia-Pacific States	Reza Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Ayoob Erfani (Afghanistan) (*for equal terms*)
Second Vice-Chair	Eastern European States	Károly Dán (Hungary)
Third Vice-Chair	Western European and other States	Pedro Luís Moitinho de Almeida (Portugal)
Fourth Vice-Chairs	Latin American and Caribbean States	Jaime Alberto Cabal Sanclemente (Colombia) and Carmen María Gallardo Hernandez (El Salvador) (*for equal terms*)

D. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

181. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 March 2016, the Commission adopted by consensus its provisional agenda and organization of work, as orally amended (E/CN.7/2016/1), which had been finalized at its intersessional meetings, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2015/238. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Operational segment

3. Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions:

   (a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;

(b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

(i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions;

(c) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.

Normative segment

4. Round-table discussions.[74]

5. Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016:

(a) Demand reduction and related measures;

(b) Supply reduction and related measures;

(c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation.

6. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

(a) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;

(b) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

(c) International Narcotics Control Board;

(d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

(e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.

7. World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

8. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1.

Special segment

9. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.[75]

***

[74] The substance of agenda item 4 was subsumed under the special segment.

[75] The preliminary provisional agenda for the special segment is set out in Commission decision 58/15.

10. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission.

11. Other business.

12. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session.

E. Documentation

182. The documents before the Commission at its fifty-ninth session are listed in E/CN.7/2016/CRP.10.

F. Closure of the session

183. At its 13th meeting, on 22 March 2016, a closing statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. The Chair of the Commission made closing remarks. The Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 also made a statement.